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(54) Title: **P-(SULFONYL)ARYL AND HETEROARYLS**

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to anti-inflammatory and analgesic compounds, especially to certain *p*-(sulfonyl)phenyl amino derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, methods for their use, and methods for preparing these compounds. The claimed compounds have prostaglandin G/H synthase inhibitor activity and are suitable for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, such as myositis, synovitis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis and bursitis, for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease or of an autoimmune disease such as systemic lupus erythematosus and type I diabetes.

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p-(Sulfonyl)Aryl and Heteroaryls

This invention relates to anti-inflammatory and analgesic compounds,
5 especially to certain *p*-(sulfonyl)-aryl and -heteroaryl amines, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, methods for their use, and methods for preparing these compounds.

U.S. Patent No. 4,277,492 (Dow Chemical) discloses 4-
bis((phenylmethyl)amino)benzensulfonic acids and their pharmaceutically-
10 acceptable salts useful as antiviral agents.

U.S. Patent No. 4,857,530 (Warner-Lambert) discloses 6-substituted-
4(3H)-quinazolinones which inhibit the enzyme thymidylate synthase and thus
are useful as anticancer agents.

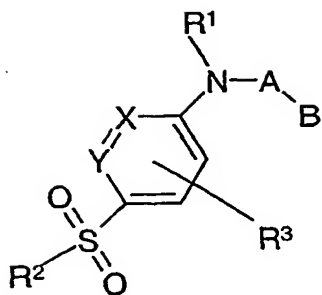
U.S. Patent No. 5,538,976 (Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical) discloses
15 substituted tertiary amino compounds, one of the substituents being a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, or a triazine ring, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. These compounds have aromatase inhibiting activity and are useful as a prophylactics and/or therapeutic agents for breast cancer, mastopathy, endometriosis, prostatic-hypertrophy, and so forth.

20 WO 98/25893 (Athena Neurosciences) discloses arylsulfonamides which have activity as inhibitors of phospholipase A₂, inhibitors of cytokine release, and as inhibitors of neurodegeneration.

WO 98/50029 (University of Pittsburgh) discloses certain substituted benzenesulfonamides as inhibitors of protein isoprenyl transferases.

25 EP 757037 A2 (Ono Pharmaceutical) discloses certain benzenesulfonyl amino acids as metalloproteinase inhibitors.

In a first aspect, this invention provides compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by formula (I):



Formula I.

5 wherein:

A is $-(CR_2)_n-$ where n is 1, 2, or 3 and R is independently hydrogen or alkyl;

B is aryl or heteroaryl;

X and Y are, independently, CH or nitrogen;

10 R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylthio substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl substituted aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl or alkylcarbonylalkyl;

preferred meaning of R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl or heteroalkyl;

R^2 is alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,

15 alkoxyalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein

R^{13} is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, or aminoalkyl;

20 preferred meaning of R^2 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein

R^{13} is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, or
25 aminoalkyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy or alkoxy; and
prodrugs, individual isomers, mixtures of isomers, and pharmaceutically acceptable
salts thereof.

Also preferred are compounds which will be referred to in the following
5 under (i) which are compounds as defined above [these will be referred to in the
following under (A)], wherein:

R^3 is hydrogen; and

X and Y are both CH.

Furthermore preferred compounds are:

- 10 (ii) The compound of (i) wherein B is aryl.
- (iii) The compound of (ii) wherein B is optionally substituted phenyl.
- (iv) The compound of (iii) wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl,
heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl.
- (v) The compound of (iv) wherein R^1 is heteroalkyl.
- 15 (vi) The compound of (v) wherein R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl.
- (vii) The compound of (vi) wherein R^2 is alkyl.
- (viii) The compound of (vii) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (ix) The compound of (vi) wherein R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.
- (x) The compound of (ix) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- 20 (xi) The compound of (i) wherein B is heteroaryl.
- (xii) The compound of (xi) wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl,
heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl.
- (xiii) The compound of (xii) wherein R^1 is heteroalkyl.
- (xiv) The compound of (xiii) wherein R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl.
- 25 (xv) The compound of (xiv) wherein R^2 is alkyl.
- (xvi) The compound of (xv) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xvii) The compound of (xiv) wherein R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.
- (xviii) The compound of (xvii) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xix) The compound of (A), wherein:
30 R^3 is hydrogen; and

one of X and Y is N.

- (xx) The compound of (xix) wherein B is aryl.
- (xxi) The compound of (xx) wherein B is optionally substituted phenyl.
- (xxii) The compound of (xxi) wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl,
- 5 heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl.
- (xxiii) The compound of (xxii) wherein R^1 is heteroalkyl.
- (xxiv) The compound of (xxiii) wherein R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl.
- (xxv) The compound of (xxiv) wherein R^2 is alkyl.
- (xxvi) The compound of (xxv) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- 10 (xxvii) The compound of (xxiv) wherein R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.
- (xxviii) The compound of (xxvii) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xxix) The compound of (xix) wherein B is heteroaryl.
- (xxx) The compound of (xxix) wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl,
- heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl.
- 15 (xxxi) The compound of (xxx) wherein R^1 is heteroalkyl.
- (xxxii) The compound of (xxxi) wherein R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl.
- (xxxiii) The compound of (xxx) wherein R^2 is alkyl.
- (xxxiv) The compound of (xxxii) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xxxv) The compound of (xxx) wherein R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.
- 20 (xxxvi) The compound of (xxxiv) wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xxxvii) The compound of (A) wherein:
- R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl;
- B is aryl; and
- X and Y are CH.
- 25 (xxxviii) The compound of (xxxvii), wherein R^2 is alkyl.
- (xxxix) The compound of (xxxviii), wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.
- (xxxx) The compound of (xxxvii), wherein R^2 is NH_2 .
- (xxxxi) The compound of (xxxvii), wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.

In a second aspect, this invention provides pharmaceutical compositions containing a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

5 In a third aspect, this invention provides a method of treatment of a disease, in particular an inflammatory or autoimmune disease, in a mammal treatable by administration of a prostaglandin G/H synthase inhibitor, comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

10 In a fourth aspect, this invention provides processes for preparing compounds of formula (I).

Unless otherwise stated, the following terms used in the specification and claims have the meanings given below:

"Acyl" means the group $-C(O)R'$, where R' is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl.

15 "Alkyl" means a linear saturated monovalent hydrocarbon radical of one to six carbon atoms or a branched saturated monovalent hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms, *e.g.*, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, 2-propyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, and the like.

20 "Alkylene" means a linear saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical of one to six carbon atoms or a branched saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms, *e.g.*, methylene, ethylene, propylene, 2-methylpropylene, pentylene, and the like.

"Alkenyl" means a linear monovalent hydrocarbon radical of two to six carbon atoms or a branched monovalent hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms, containing at least one double bond, *e.g.*, ethenyl, propenyl, and the like.

25 "Alkynyl" means a linear monovalent hydrocarbon radical of two to six carbon atoms or a branched monovalent hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms, containing at least one triple bond, *e.g.*, ethynyl, propynyl, and the like.

"Alkoxy", "aryloxy", "aralkyloxy", or "heteroaralkyloxy" means a radical -OR where R is an alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl respectively, as defined herein, *e.g.*, methoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, pyridin-2-ylmethoxy, and the like.

"Alkoxy-carbonylalkyl" means a radical $-R^aC(O)R^b$ where R^a is an alkylene group as defined above and R^b is an alkoxy group as defined above *e.g.*, methoxycarbonylethyl, ethoxycarbonylbutyl, and the like.

"Aryl" means a monovalent monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic hydrocarbon radical of 6 to 10 ring atoms which is substituted independently with one to four substituents, preferably one, two, or three substituents selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, heteroalkyl, COR (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), $-(CR'R'')_n$ -COOR (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl) or $-(CR'R'')_n$ -CONR^aR^b (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R^a and R^b are, independently of each other, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl). More specifically the term aryl includes, but is not limited to, phenyl, biphenyl, 1-naphthyl, and 2-naphthyl, and the derivatives thereof.

"alkylthio substituted aryl" means a monovalent monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic hydrocarbon radical of 6 to 10 ring atoms which is substituted with one to four alkylthio radicals.

"alkylsulfonyl substituted aryl" means a monovalent monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic hydrocarbon radical of 6 to 10 ring atoms which is substituted with one to four alkylsulfonyl radicals.

"Aralkyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkylene group and R^b is an aryl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, benzyl, phenylethyl, 3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-methylpentyl, and the like.

"Aralkenyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkenylene group and R^b is an aryl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, 3-phenyl-2-propenyl, and the like.

"Arylheteroalkyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an heteroalkylene group and R^b is an aryl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, 2-hydroxy-2-phenyl-ethyl, 2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-2-phenyl-ethyl, and the like.

"Cycloalkyl" means a saturated monovalent cyclic hydrocarbon radical of three to seven ring carbons. The cycloalkyl may be optionally substituted independently with one, two, or three substituents selected from alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, or $-C(O)R$ (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, hydroxy, alkoxy, or optionally substituted phenyl). More specifically, the term cycloalkyl includes, for example, cyclopropyl, cyclohexyl, phenylcyclohexyl, 4-carboxycyclohexyl, 2-carboxamidocyclohexyl, 2-dimethylaminocarbonyl-cyclohexyl, and the like.

"Cycloalkyl-alkyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkylene group and R^b is a cycloalkyl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclohexylpropyl, 3-cyclohexyl-2-methylpropyl, and the like.

"Haloalkyl" means alkyl substituted with one or more same or different halo atoms, *e.g.*, $-CH_2Cl$, $-CF_3$, $-CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CCl_3$, and the like, and further includes those alkyl groups such as perfluoroalkyl in which all hydrogen atoms are replaced by fluorine atoms.

"Heteroalkyl" means an alkyl radical as defined herein with one, two or three substituents independently selected from $-OR^a$, $-NR^bR^c$, and $-S(O)_nR^d$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 2), with the understanding that the point of attachment of the heteroalkyl radical is through a carbon atom of the heteroalkyl radical. R^a is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, carboxamido, or mono- or di-alkylcarbamoyl. R^b is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl or aralkyl. R^c is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, carboxamido, mono- or di-alkylcarbamoyl or alkylsulfonyl. R^d is hydrogen (provided that n is 0),

alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, amino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, hydroxyalkyl or hydroxyalkylamino. Representative examples include, for example, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2-methoxyethyl, benzyloxymethyl, 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl.

5 "Heteroaryl" means a monovalent monocyclic or bicyclic radical of 5 to 12 ring atoms having at least one aromatic ring containing one, two, or three ring heteroatoms selected from N, O, or S, the remaining ring atoms being C, with the understanding that the attachment point of the heteroaryl radical will be on an aromatic ring. The heteroaryl ring is optionally substituted independently with one to
10 four substituents, preferably one or two substituents, selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, heteroalkyl, -COR (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl, $-(CR'R'')_n-COOR$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R is hydrogen, alkyl,
15 cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), or $-(CR'R'')_n-CONR^aR^b$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R^a and R^b are, independently of each other, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl). More specifically the term heteroaryl includes, but is not limited to, pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl,
20 isoxazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, benzofuranyl, tetrahydrobenzofuranyl, isobenzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoisothiazolyl, benzotriazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzoxazolyl, quinolyl, tetrahydroquinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzisoxazolyl or benzothienyl, and the derivatives thereof.

25 "Heteroaralkyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkylene group and R^b is a heteroaryl group as defined herein, e.g., pyridin-3-ylmethyl, 3-(benzofuran-2-yl)propyl, 3-thienylethyl, imidazol-4-ylmethyl and the like.

"Heteroaralkenyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkenylene group and R^b is a heteroaryl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, 3-(pyridin-3-yl)propen-2-yl, and the like.

"Heterocyclyl" means a saturated or unsaturated non-aromatic cyclic radical of 3 to 8 ring atoms in which one or two ring atoms are heteroatoms selected from O, NR (where R is independently hydrogen or alkyl or $S(O)_n$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 2), the remaining ring atoms being C, where one or two C atoms may optionally be replaced by a carbonyl group. The heterocyclyl ring may be optionally substituted independently with one, two, or three substituents selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, -COR (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), $-(CR'R'')_n-COOR$ (n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), or $-(CR'R'')_n-CONR^aR^b$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R^a and R^b are, independently of each other, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl). More specifically the term heterocyclyl includes, but is not limited to, tetrahydropyranyl, piperidino, N-methylpiperidin-3-yl, piperazino, N-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl, 3-pyrrolidino, 2-pyrrolidon-1-yl, morpholino, thiomorpholino, thiomorpholino-1-oxide, thiomorpholino-1,1-dioxide, pyrrolidinyl, and the derivatives thereof.

"Heterocyclylalkyl" means a radical $-R^aR^b$ where R^a is an alkylene group and R^b is a heterocyclyl group as defined herein, *e.g.*, tetrahydropyran-2-ylmethyl, 4-methylpiperazin-1-ylethyl, 3-piperidinylmethyl, and the like.

"Heteroalkylene" means a linear saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical of one to six carbons or a branched saturated hydrocarbon radical of three to six carbon atoms with one, two or three substituents independently selected from $-OR^a$, $-NR^bR^c$, and $-S(O)_nR^d$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 2) where, R^a , R^b , R^c , and R^d are as

defined herein for a heteroalkyl radical. Examples include, 2-hydroxyethan-1,2-diyl, 2-hydroxypropan-1,3-diyl and the like.

“Heterosubstituted cycloalkyl” means a cycloalkyl group wherein one, two, or three hydrogen atoms are replaced by substituents independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, or $-SO_nR$ (where n is an integer from 0 to 2 and when n is 0, R is hydrogen or alkyl and when n is 1 or 2, R is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, or hydroxyalkyl). Examples include 4-hydroxycyclohexyl, 2-aminocyclohexyl etc.

“Heteroalkylsubstituted cycloalkyl” means a cycloalkyl group wherein one, two, or three hydrogen atoms are replaced independently by heteroalkyl groups, with the understanding that the heteroalkyl group is attached to the cycloalkyl group via a carbon-carbon bond. Examples include 1-hydroxymethyl-cyclopent-1-yl, 2-hydroxymethyl-cyclohex-2-yl and the like.

“Heteroalkylsubstituted heterocyclyl” means a heterocyclyl group wherein one, two, or three hydrogen atoms are replaced independently by heteroalkyl groups, with the understanding that the heteroalkyl group is attached to the heterocyclyl group via a carbon-carbon bond. Examples include 4-hydroxymethyl-piperidin-1-yl, and the like.

“Hydroxyalkyl” means an alkyl radical as defined herein, substituted with one or more, preferably one, two or three hydroxy groups, provided that the same carbon atom does not carry more than one hydroxy group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 1-hydroxymethyl-2-methylpropyl, 2-hydroxybutyl, 3-hydroxybutyl, 4-hydroxybutyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 1-hydroxymethyl-2-hydroxyethyl, 2,3-dihydroxybutyl, 3,4-dihydroxybutyl and 2-hydroxymethyl-3-hydroxypropyl, preferably 2-hydroxyethyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl and 1-hydroxymethyl-2-hydroxyethyl. Accordingly, as used herein, the term “hydroxyalkyl” is used to define a subset of heteroalkyl groups.

“Optionally substituted phenyl” means a phenyl ring which is optionally substituted independently with one to four substituents, preferably one or two.

substituents selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, acylamino, mono-alkylamino, di-alkylamino, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, heteroalkyl, -COR (where R is hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl, - (CR'R'')_n-COOR (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl), or -(CR'R'')_n-CONR^aR^b (where n is an integer from 0 to 5, R' and R'' are independently hydrogen or alkyl, and R^a and R^b are, independently of each other, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or phenylalkyl).

"Leaving group" has the meaning conventionally associated with it in synthetic organic chemistry i.e., an atom or group capable of being displaced by a nucleophile and includes halo (such as chloro, bromo, iodo), alkanesulfonyloxy, arenesulfonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy (e.g. acetoxy), arylcarbonyloxy, mesyloxy, tosyloxy, trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy, aryloxy (e.g., 2,4-dinitrophenoxy), methoxy, N,O-dimethylhydroxylamino, and the like.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable excipient" means an excipient that is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical composition that is generally safe, non-toxic and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable, and includes an excipient that is acceptable for veterinary use as well as human pharmaceutical use. A "pharmaceutically acceptable excipient" as used in the specification and claims includes both one and more than one such excipient.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" of a compound means a salt that is pharmaceutically acceptable and that possesses the desired pharmacological activity of the parent compound. Such salts include:

(1) acid addition salts, formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like; or formed with organic acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, hexanoic acid, cyclopentanepropionic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, 3-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 1,2-ethane-disulfonic acid,

2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 4-chlorobenzenesulfonic acid, 2-naphthalenesulfonic acid, 4-toluenesulfonic acid, camphorsulfonic acid, 4-methylbicyclo[2.2.2]-oct-2-ene-1-carboxylic acid, glucoheptonic acid, 3-phenylpropionic acid, trimethylacetic acid, tertiary butylacetic acid, lauryl sulfuric acid, gluconic acid, glutamic acid, hydroxynaphthoic acid, salicylic acid, stearic acid, muconic acid, and the like; or

(2) salts formed when an acidic proton present in the parent compound either is replaced by a metal ion, e.g., an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth ion, or an aluminum ion; or coordinates with an organic base such as ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, tromethamine, *N*-methylglucamine, and the like.

"Pro-drugs" means any compound which releases an active parent drug according to Formula (I) *in vivo* when such prodrug is administered to a mammalian subject. Prodrugs of a compound of Formula (I) are prepared by modifying functional groups present in the compound of Formula (I) in such a way that the modifications may be cleaved *in vivo* to release the parent compound. Prodrugs include compounds of Formula (I) wherein a hydroxy, amino, or sulfhydryl group in a compound of Formula (I) is bonded to any group that may be cleaved *in vivo* to regenerate the free hydroxyl, amino, or sulfhydryl group, respectively. Examples of prodrugs include, but are not limited to esters (e.g., acetate, formate, and benzoate derivatives), carbamates (e.g., *N,N*-dimethylaminocarbonyl) of hydroxy functional groups in compounds of Formula (I), and the like.

"Protecting group" refers to a grouping of atoms that when attached to a reactive group in a molecule masks, reduces or prevents that reactivity. Examples of protecting groups can be found in T.W. Greene and P.G. Futs, *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, (Wiley, 2nd ed. 1991) and Harrison and Harrison *et al.*, *Compendium of Synthetic Organic Methods*, Vols. 1-8 (John Wiley and Sons. 1971-1996). Representative amino protecting groups include formyl, acetyl, trifluoroacetyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl (CBZ), *tert*-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), trimethyl silyl (TMS), 2-trimethylsilyl-ethanesulfonyl (SES), trityl and substituted trityl groups, allyloxycarbonyl, 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc), nitro-

veratryloxycarbonyl (NVOC) and the like. Representative hydroxy protecting groups include those where the hydroxy group is either acylated or alkylated such as benzyl and trityl ethers as well as alkyl ethers, tetrahydropyranyl ethers, trialkylsilyl ethers and allyl ethers.

5 "Treating" or "treatment" of a disease includes:

(1) preventing the disease, i.e. causing the clinical symptoms of the disease not to develop in a mammal that may be exposed to or predisposed to the disease but does not yet experience or display symptoms of the disease,

(2) inhibiting the disease, i.e., arresting or reducing the
10 development of the disease or its clinical symptoms, or

(3) relieving the disease, i.e., causing regression of the disease or its clinical symptoms.

"A therapeutically effective amount" means the amount of a compound that, when administered to a mammal for treating a disease, is sufficient to effect such
15 treatment for the disease. The "therapeutically effective amount" will vary depending on the compound, the disease and its severity and the age, weight, etc., of the mammal to be treated.

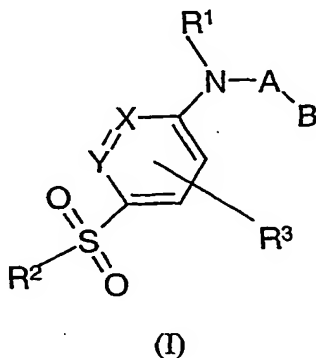
"Optional" or "optionally" in the above definitions means that the subsequently described event or circumstance may but need not occur, and that the
20 description includes instances where the event or circumstance occurs and instances in which it does not. For example, "heterocyclo group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an alkyl group" means that the alkyl may but need not be present, and the description includes situations where the heterocyclo group is mono- or disubstituted with an alkyl group and situations where the heterocyclo group is not
25 substituted with the alkyl group.

Compounds that have the same molecular formula but differ in the nature or sequence of bonding of their atoms or the arrangement of their atoms in space are termed "isomers". Isomers that differ in the arrangement of their atoms in space are termed "stereoisomers". Stereoisomers that are not mirror images of one
30 another are termed "diastereomers" and those that are non-superimposable mirror

images of each other are termed "enantiomers". When a compound has an asymmetric center, for example, it is bonded to four different groups, a pair of enantiomers is possible. An enantiomer can be characterized by the absolute configuration of its asymmetric center and is described by the *R*- and *S*-sequencing rules of Cahn and Prelog, or by the manner in which the molecule rotates the plane of polarized light and designated as dextrorotatory or levorotatory (i.e., as (+) or (-)- isomers respectively). A chiral compound can exist as either individual enantiomer or as a mixture thereof. A mixture containing equal proportions of the enantiomers is called a "racemic mixture".

The compounds of this invention may exist in stereoisomeric form if they possess one or more asymmetric centers or a double bond with asymmetric substitution and, therefore, can be produced as individual stereoisomers or as mixtures. Unless otherwise indicated, the description is intended to include individual stereoisomers as well as mixtures. The methods for the determination of stereochemistry and the separation of stereoisomers are well-known in the art (see discussion in Chapter 4 of "Advanced Organic Chemistry", 4th edition J. March, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1992).

The naming and numbering of the compounds of this invention is illustrated below.



where R^3 is hydrogen, R^2 is methyl, R^1 is 2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl, A is CH_2 , B is 4-fluorophenyl, X is CH and Y is CH is named 4-[N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)-ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone.

5 where R^3 is hydrogen, R^2 is methyl, R^1 is benzyl, A is CH_2 , B is 4-fluorophenyl, X is CH and Y is CH is named 4-[N,N-(benzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-phenyl methyl sulfone.

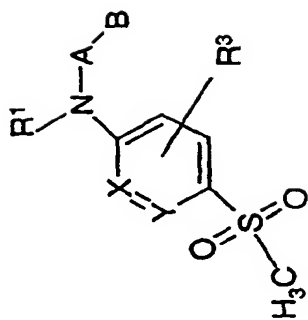
where R^3 is hydrogen, R^2 is methyl, R^1 is 2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl, A is CH_2 , B is 4-fluorophenyl, X is nitrogen and Y is CH is named 2-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino}pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfone.

10 where R^3 is hydrogen, R^2 is NH_2 , R^1 is 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl, A is CH_2 , B is 4-methyl-phenyl, X is CH and Y is CH is named 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide.

15 where R^3 is 3-fluoro, R^2 is methyl, R^1 is 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl, A is CH_2 , B is 4-ethoxy-phenyl, X is CH and Y is CH is named (4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-amine.

Representative compounds of this invention are as follows:

I. Compounds of formula (I) where R² is CH₃ and the other groups are defined as below:



CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ³	Made by Example	M. Pt. °C	M/S m/e
1-1	CH ₂	phenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		367
1-2	CH ₂	2-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		385
1-3	CH ₂	2-methoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		397
1-4	CH ₂	3,4-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		403
1-5	CH ₂	2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		419
1-6	CH ₂	3,4-dimethylphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		395
1-7	CH ₂	2,4-dichlorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		436
1-8	CH ₂	4-trifluoromethylphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		435
1-9	CH ₂	2-bromophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		446
1-10	CH ₂	3-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		385

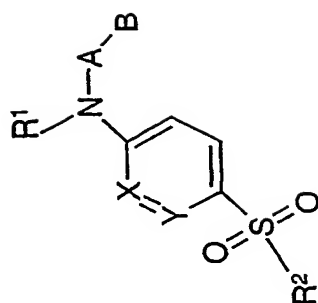
CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ³	Made by Example	M. Pt. °C	M/S m/e
1-11	CH ₂	3-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		401
1-12	CH ₂	4-bromophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		446
1-13	CH ₂	2,3-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		403
1-14	CH ₂	3,5-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		403
1-15	CH ₂	4-methoxycarbonylphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		425
1-16	CH ₂	2,5-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		403
1-17	CH ₂	2-methylthiazol-4-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		388
1-18	CH ₂	4-methylthiazol-2-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		388
1-19	CH ₂	2-phenylthiazol-4-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		450
1-20	CH ₂	2-(4-chlorophenyl)thiazol-4-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		485
1-21	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	ethyl	H	2		307
1-22	CH ₂	thiophen-2-yl	CH	CH	butyl	H	3		323
1-23	CH ₂	phenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		317
1-24	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	pentyl	H	2		349
1-25	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	isopropyl	H	2		321
1-26	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	propyl	H	E 2		321
1-27	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		335
1-28	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	isoamyl	H	2		349
1-29	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	isobutyl	H	2		335
1-30	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methoxy)ethyl	H	2		337

CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ³	Made by Example	M. Pt. °C	M/S m/e
1-31	(CH)CH ₃	phenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		381
1-32	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	hydroxypropyl	H	2		337
1-33	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl	H	4		399
1-34	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(ethylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4	109.6- 110.7	399
1-35	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		472
1-36	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	hydroxyethyl	H	2		323
1-37	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	cyclopropylmethyl	H	2		333
1-38	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)- pyrrolidin-3-yl	H	2	174.4- 178.0	448
1-39	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(morpholin-4-yl)ethyl	H	2		392
1-40	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	pyrrolidin-3-yl	H	2	124.0- 124.3	348
1-41	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	3-(pyrrolidin-2-on-1-yl)- propyl	H	2		404
1-42	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	benzyl	H	1		369
1-43	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-[N,N-(acetyl)(4- fluorobenzyl)amino] ethyl	H	2		472
1-44	CH ₂	2,4-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4	149.4- 150.4	403
1-45	CH ₂	pyridin-2-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5	139.5- 140.5	368

CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ³	Made by Example	M. Pt. °C	M/S m/e
1-46	CH ₂	4-methoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		397
1-47	CH ₂	2-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		351
1-48	CH ₂	2-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		335
1-49	CH ₂	2-methoxyphenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		347
1-50	CH ₂	4-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		351
1-51	CH ₂	4-methoxyphenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		347
1-52	CH ₂	4-cyanophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		342
1-53	CH ₂	2,4-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		353
1-54	CH ₂	3,4-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	butyl	H	2		353
1-55	CH ₂	4-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		401
1-56	CH ₂	2-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		401
1-57	CH ₂	6-chloropyridazin-3-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		403
1-58	CH ₂	6-oxo-pyridazin-3-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		385
1-59	CH ₂	benzothiazol-2-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		424
1-60	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	N	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	11		386
1-61	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	N	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	12		386
1-62	CH ₂	thiazol-2-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		388
1-63	CH ₂	2-methoxypyridin-5-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		398
1-64	CH ₂	2-ethoxypyridin-5-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		412
1-65	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	7		411
1-66	CH ₂	pyridin-3-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		368

CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ³	Made by Example	M. Pt. °C	M/S m/e
1-67	CH ₂	pyridin-4-yl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5	154.4- 154.6	368
1-68	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	4-methylsulfonyl-phenyl	H	8		433
1-69	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	4-methylthio-phenyl	H	8		401
1-70	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	3-oxo-butyl	H	9		349
1-71	(CH ₂) ₃	phenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	4		395
1-72	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	3-F	13	56-59	429
1-73	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	3-F	13		403
1-74	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	3-OMe	13		415
1-75	CH ₂	4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	6		445
1-76	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(3-thienyl)ethyl	H	18		401
1-77	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	imidazol-4-ylmethyl	H	18		385
1-78	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	14		395
1-79	CH ₂	4-fluoro-3-hydroxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	17		401
1-80	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(2-hydroxy-ethylaminosulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		430
1-81	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(imidazol-1-ylsulfonyl)ethyl	H	5		437

Compounds of formula (I) where X and Y are CH, R³ is hydrogen and the other groups are defined as below:



CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ²	Made By Example	M. Pt. °C	Mass. Spec. m/e
2-1	CH ₂	4-methylphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	4-methoxy-benzylamino	10	85.7-86.6	502
2-2	CH ₂	4-methylphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	10	169.1-170.0	385
2-3	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	10		386
2-4	CH ₂	2,4-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	10	152.9-153.2	404
2-5	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylthio)ethyl	NH ₂	14		355
2-6	CH ₂	4-ethoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	14		413
2-7	CH ₂	2-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	14		387
2-8	CH ₂	2,6-difluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	14		405
2-9	CH ₂	2-methoxyphenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	14		399
2-10	CH ₂	2-chlorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	NH ₂	14		403

CPD #	A	B	X	Y	R ¹	R ²	Made By Example	M. Pt. °C	Mass. Spec. m/e
2-11	CH ₂	2-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	2-fluorobenzyl amino	16		495
2-12	CH ₂	4-fluorophenyl	CH	CH	2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl	ethylamino	15		415

While the broadest definition of this invention is aforementioned, compounds of Formula (I) wherein: R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, or heteroalkyl; R^2 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein: R^{13} is hydrogen or alkyl; R^{14} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, or aminoalkyl are preferred. Within this group of compounds, further certain compounds of Formula (I) are preferred.

In certain preferred embodiments, R^3 is hydrogen.

In certain preferred embodiments, A is $-CH_2-$, CH_2-CH_2- or $-CH(CH_3)-$; preferably $-CH_2-$.

In certain preferred embodiments, X is CH and Y is CH.

In other preferred embodiments, X is N and Y is CH.

In other preferred embodiments, X is CH and Y is N.

In certain preferred embodiments, B is aryl, preferably optionally substituted phenyl.

In other preferred embodiments, B is heteroaryl, preferably furyl, imidazolyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl or pyridazinyl.

In certain preferred embodiments R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl; more preferably heteroalkyl, especially alkylsulfonyl-alkyl (e.g. 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl).

In certain preferred embodiments R^2 is alkyl, more preferably methyl.

In other preferred embodiments R^2 is NH_2 .

A particularly preferred group is (II) where X and Y are CH.

Within this group, in one preferred embodiment, B is phenyl optionally substituted from the group consisting of halo, alkoxy, and cyano, especially mono-substituted with fluoro (e.g. 4-fluorophenyl); R^1 is alkylsulfonyl-ethyl, particularly 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl; and R^2 is alkyl, particularly methyl or NH_2 .

In another preferred group within (II), B is heteroaryl, preferably furyl, imidazolyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl or pyridazinyl; R^1 is alkylsulfonyl-ethyl, particularly 2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl; and R^2 is alkyl, particularly methyl, or NH_2 .

5 An another particularly preferred group is (III) where R^3 is hydrogen and both X and Y are CH. A further another particularly preferred group is (IV), where R^3 is hydrogen and one of X and Y is N.

10 Within these two groups, one preferred subgroup is (V) where B is aryl, and especially optionally substituted phenyl; and the preferred subgroup is (VI) where B is heteroaryl.

 Within these two subgroups (V) and (VI), one preferred subgroup is (VII) where R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl heteroaralkyl or heteroalkyl; more preferably heteroalkyl, especially alkylsulfonylalkyl.

15 Within this subgroup (VII), one preferred subgroup is (VIII) where R^2 is alkyl, more preferably methyl; and another preferred subgroup is (IX) where R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.

 Within this subgroup (X), one preferred subgroup is (XI) where A is $-(CH_2)-$.

20 A further another particularly preferred group is (XII) where R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl; B is aryl; and X and Y are CH.

 Within this group (XII), one preferred subgroup is (XIII) where R^2 is alkyl; another preferred subgroup is (XIV) where R^2 is NH_2 and further another subgroup is (XV) where A is $-(CH_2)-$.

25 Within these two subgroups (XIII) and (XIV), one preferred subgroup is (XVI) where A is $-(CH_2)-$.

 A further another particularly preferred group is (XVII) where R^3 is hydrogen and at least one of X and Y are CH.

30 Within this group (XVII), one preferred subgroup is (XVIII) where B is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroalkyl and/or R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl, more preferably

heteroalkyl, especially alkylsulfonylalkyl; and/or R^2 is alkyl or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen; and/or A is $-(CH_2)-$.

A number of different substituent preferences have been given above and following any of these substituent preferences results in a compound of the invention that is more preferred than one in which the particular substituent preference is not followed. However, these substituent preferences are generally independent, although some preferences are mutually exclusive, and following more than one of these preferences may result in a more preferred compound than one in which fewer of the substituent preferences are followed. Compounds of this invention can be made by the methods depicted in the reaction schemes shown below.

The starting materials and reagents used in preparing these compounds are either available from commercial suppliers such as Aldrich Chemical Co., (Milwaukee, WI), Bachem (Torrance, CA), or Sigma (St. Louis, MO), Lancaster Synthesis (Pelham, N.C.), Maybridge Chemical Co. LTD (Cornwall, United Kingdom) or are prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art following procedures set forth in references such as *Fieser and Fieser's Reagents for Organic Synthesis*, Volumes 1-17 (John Wiley and Sons, 1991); *Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds*, Volumes 1-5 and Supplementals (Elsevier Science Publishers, 1989); *Organic Reactions*, Volumes 1-40 (John Wiley and Sons, 1991), *March's Advanced Organic Chemistry*, (John Wiley and Sons, 4th Edition) and *Larock's Comprehensive Organic Transformations* (VCH Publishers Inc., 1989). These schemes are merely illustrative of some methods by which the compounds of this invention can be synthesized, and various modifications to these schemes can be made and will be suggested to one skilled in the art having referred to this disclosure.

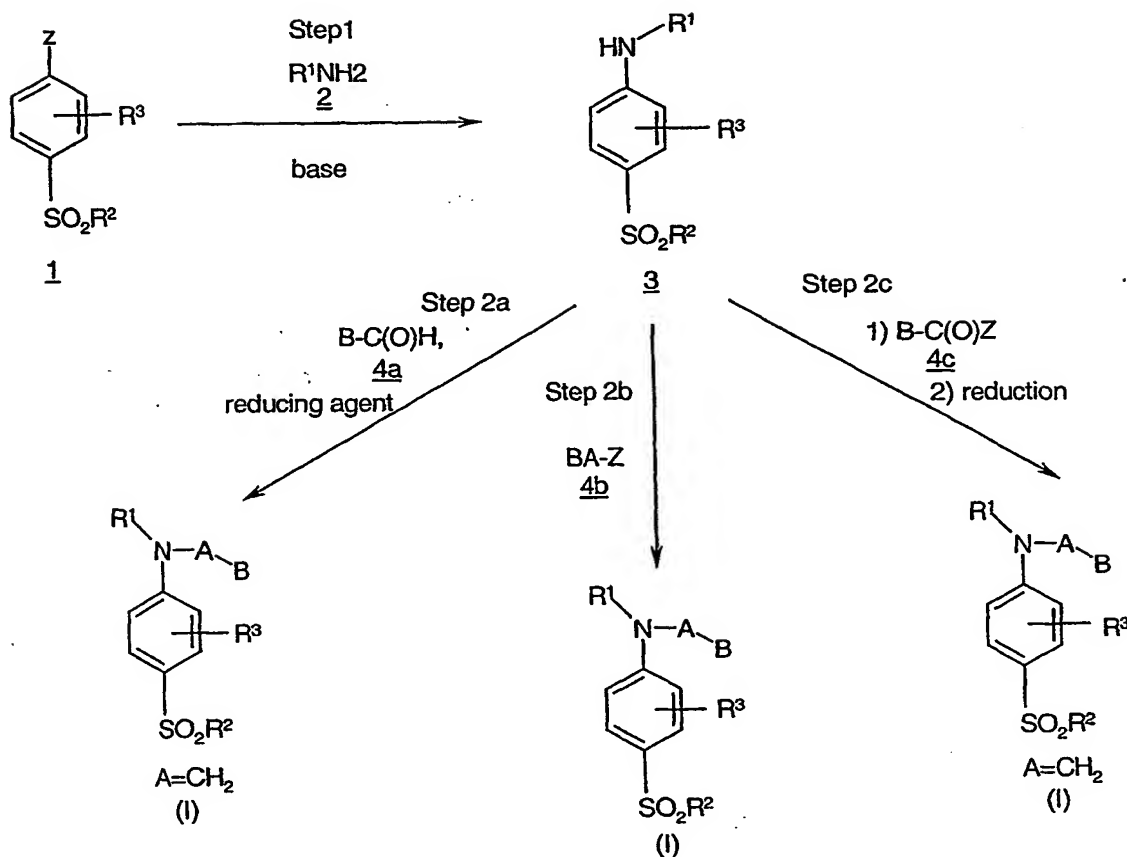
The starting materials and the intermediates of the reaction may be isolated and purified if desired using conventional techniques, including but not limited to filtration, distillation, crystallization, chromatography and the like. Such materials may be characterized using conventional means, including physical constants and spectral data.

Unless specified to the contrary, the reactions described herein take place at atmospheric pressure over a temperature range from about -78 °C to about 150 °C, more preferably from about 0 °C to about 125 °C and most preferably at about room (or ambient) temperature, e.g., about 20 °C.

5 Schemes A-H describe methods to generate the compounds of Formula (I). One of skill in the art will recognize that groups R¹, R², R³, A and B may be present in protected form at any point in the Schemes and will be removed at the appropriate juncture.

10 Scheme A describes the synthesis of a compound of formula (I) wherein X and Y are CH and R¹, R², R³, A, and B are as defined in the Summary of the Invention.

Scheme A



- 5 In Step 1, reaction of a phenylsulfonyl compound of formula 1 (where Z is an appropriate leaving group such as fluoro or bromo) with a monosubstituted amine of formula 2 (wherein R¹ is as defined in the Summary of the Invention or a protected precursor thereof) gives a 4-aminophenylsulfonyl compound of formula 3. The reaction is carried out at elevated temperature, preferably in the range of 50 - 80° C and in the presence of a base such as potassium carbonate, triethylamine, and the like.
- 10 Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar aprotic solvents such as DMF, DMSO, HMPA, and the like. In general, the compounds of formula 1 are commercially available or can be readily synthesized by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Compounds of formula (I) can be prepared from a compound of formula 3 by any of the following three steps: Step 2a, 2b, or 2c.

As shown in Step 2a, a compound of formula (I) can be prepared from a compound of formula 3 by reductive amination. Reaction of compound 3 with an aldehyde of formula 4a (wherein B is as defined in the Summary of the Invention or a protected precursor thereof) and a suitable reducing agent (e.g. a hydride reducing agent such as $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$) gives a compound of Formula (I) (wherein A is CH_2). Suitable solvents for the reaction are halogenated hydrocarbons, such as dichloromethane, dichloroethane, and the like. See, for example, Example 3.

Alternatively, as shown in Step 2b, a compound of formula (I) can be prepared from a compound of formula 3 by direct nucleophilic alkylation. Reaction of compound 3 with a compound of formula 4b (where B and A are defined in the Summary of the Invention or a protected precursor thereof and Z is an appropriate leaving group such as bromo and chloro) gives a compound of formula (I). The reaction is carried out in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride. Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar aprotic solvents such as DMF, DMSO, HMPA, and the like. This reaction is carried out at approximately room temperature to 70°C . See, for example, Examples 2 and 4.

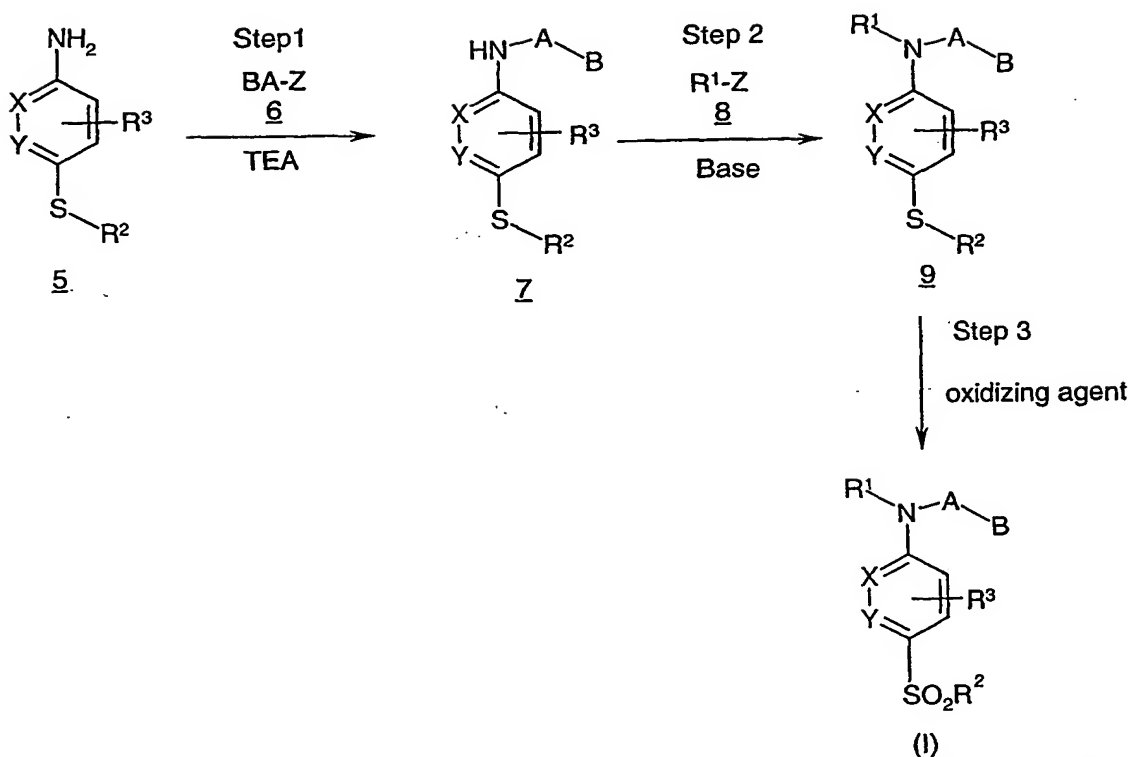
Alternatively, as shown in Step 2c, a compound of formula (I) can be prepared from a compound of formula 3 by acylation/reduction. Compound 3 is reacted with an acid chloride or carboxylic acid of formula 4c (where Z is a leaving group, such as chloro or $-\text{OH}$ and B is as defined in the Summary of the Invention or a protected precursor thereof). If the compound of formula 4c is a carboxylic acid a coupling agent, such as DCC, must also be present. This acylation is followed by reduction using a suitable reducing agent (typically a hydride reducing agent such as LAH, B_2H_6 , BH_3DMS , and the like) to provide a compound of formula (I) (wherein A is CH_2). Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar, anhydrous solvents such as THF, ether, and the like.

Additional steps may be added to this general Scheme A as necessary to provide the desired compound of formula (I). As an example of an additional step, it

may be necessary to protect functional groups in R^1 of compound 3 before preparing a compound of formula (I) by Step 2a, 2b, or 2c and then subsequently deprotect the functional group. For example, amine functionality in a compound of formula 3, may be protected by treatment of 3 with di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate, followed by removal of the *tert*-butoxy carbonyl protecting group after Step 2. Examples of protecting groups and their synthetic use can be found in T.W. Greene and P.G. Futs, Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry, (Wiley, 2nd ed. 1991) and Harrison and Harrison *et al.*, Compendium of Synthetic Organic Methods, Vols. 1-8 (John Wiley and Sons. 1971-1996). These protection/deprotection steps are well known by those of ordinary skill in the art and need not be further elaborated.

Compounds of formula (I) may also be obtained by further modification of a functional group on a compound of formula (I). For example, compounds of formula (I), where R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl (e.g. methylsulfonyl ethyl) may be obtained by oxidation of the corresponding alkylthioalkyl compound which in turn may be prepared via step 1 by treating a compound of formula 1 with the corresponding alkylthioalkyl amine.

Scheme B describes an alternative synthesis of a compound of formula (I) by sequential alkylation of an aromatic amine, 5, wherein X, Y, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , A and B are as defined in the Summary of the Invention or protected precursors thereof, except that R^2 is not $NR^{13}R^{14}$

Scheme B

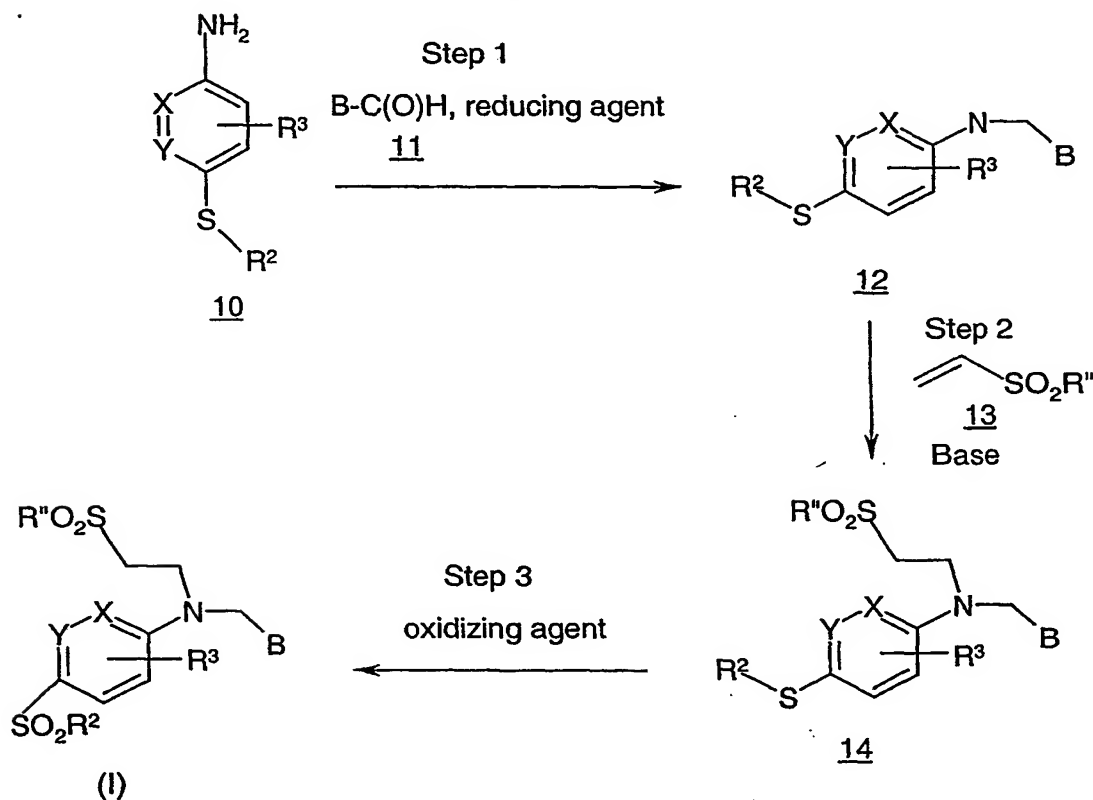
In Step 1, reaction of an aromatic amine of formula **5** with a nucleophilic alkylating agent of formula **6** (where B and A are as defined in the Summary of the Invention or a protected precursor thereof and Z is an appropriate leaving group such as bromo, and chloro) in the presence of a base (such as triethylamine (TEA) or diisopropylethyl amine) provides a compound of formula **7**. Suitable solvents for this reaction are dichloromethane, THF, and the like.

In Step 2, a compound of formula **7** is reacted with an alkylating agent of formula **8** (wherein R¹ is as defined in the Summary of the Invention and Z is an appropriate leaving group such as bromo and chloro) to provide a compound of formula **9**. The reaction is carried out in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride. Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar, aprotic solvents such as DMF, DMSO, HMPA, and the like.

In Step 3, oxidation of a compound of formula 9 with a suitable oxidizing agent, such as potassium peroxymonosulfate (OXONE™), MCPBA, and the like, provides a compound of formula (I). Suitable solvents for the reaction are alcohols, such as methanol and ethanol. See, for example, Example 1.

Scheme C describes the synthesis of a compound of formula (I) wherein X, Y, R², R³ and B are as defined in the Summary of the Invention (except that R² is not NR¹³R¹⁴), A is -CH₂- and R¹ is alkylsulfonylalkyl.

Scheme C



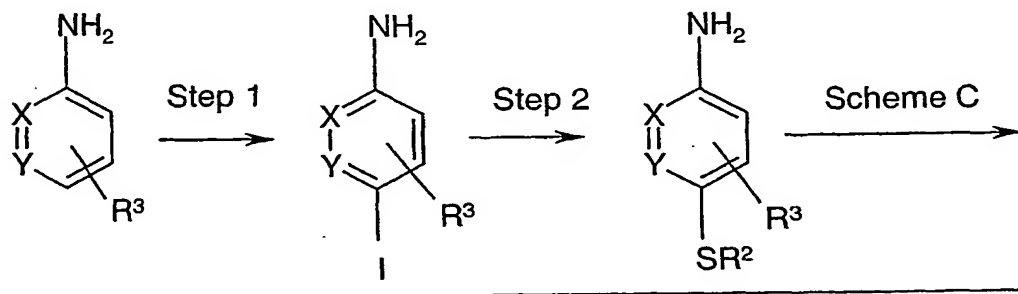
In Step 1 of Scheme C, reaction of an aromatic amine sulfide of formula 10 with an aldehyde of formula 11 and a suitable reducing agent (such as NaBH(OAc)₃) gives an amino substituted aromatic sulfide of formula 12.

In Step 2, an aromatic sulfide of formula 12 is reacted with a vinyl sulfone of formula 13 in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride to provide a sulfide of formula 14. Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar aprotic solvents such as DMF, DMSO, HMPA, and the like

In Step 3, oxidation of a sulfide of formula 14 with a suitable oxidizing agent, such as potassium peroxymonosulfate (OXONE TM), MCPBA, and the like, provides a compound of formula (I). Suitable solvents for the reaction are alcohols, such as methanol and ethanol. See, for example, Example 5.

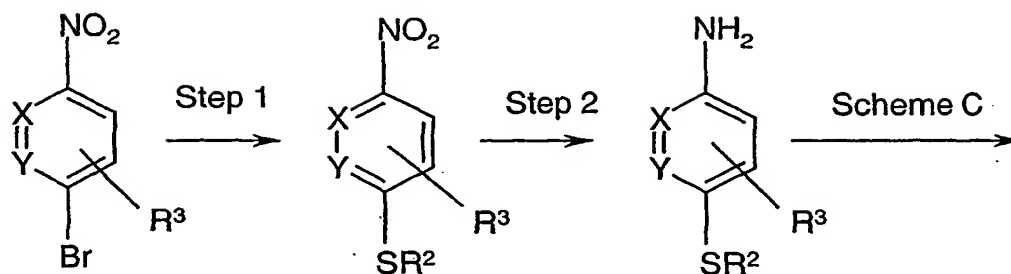
4-anilino sulfides of formula 10 where X and Y are both CH are available from commercial suppliers such as Aldrich Chemical Co. Amino-pyridyl sulfides and amino-pyridazinyl sulfides of formula 10, where either of X and Y are N may be prepared from the corresponding amino-pyridines and amino-pyridazines by halogenation and alkylation with a thiolate as shown in Scheme C1.

Scheme C1



In Step 1, the heteroaromatic amine is treated with I₂ in DMSO as described in *Heterocycles* 1984, 1195 to give an iodinated product that is treated with NaSR₂ in DMF in Step 2 to displace the iodine to form a compound of formula 10 which is carried forward into Scheme C.

Alternatively, compounds of formula 10 where either of X and Y are N may also be prepared by thiolation of the corresponding halo nitro heteroaromatic compounds followed by reduction of the nitro group to an amine as shown in Scheme C2.

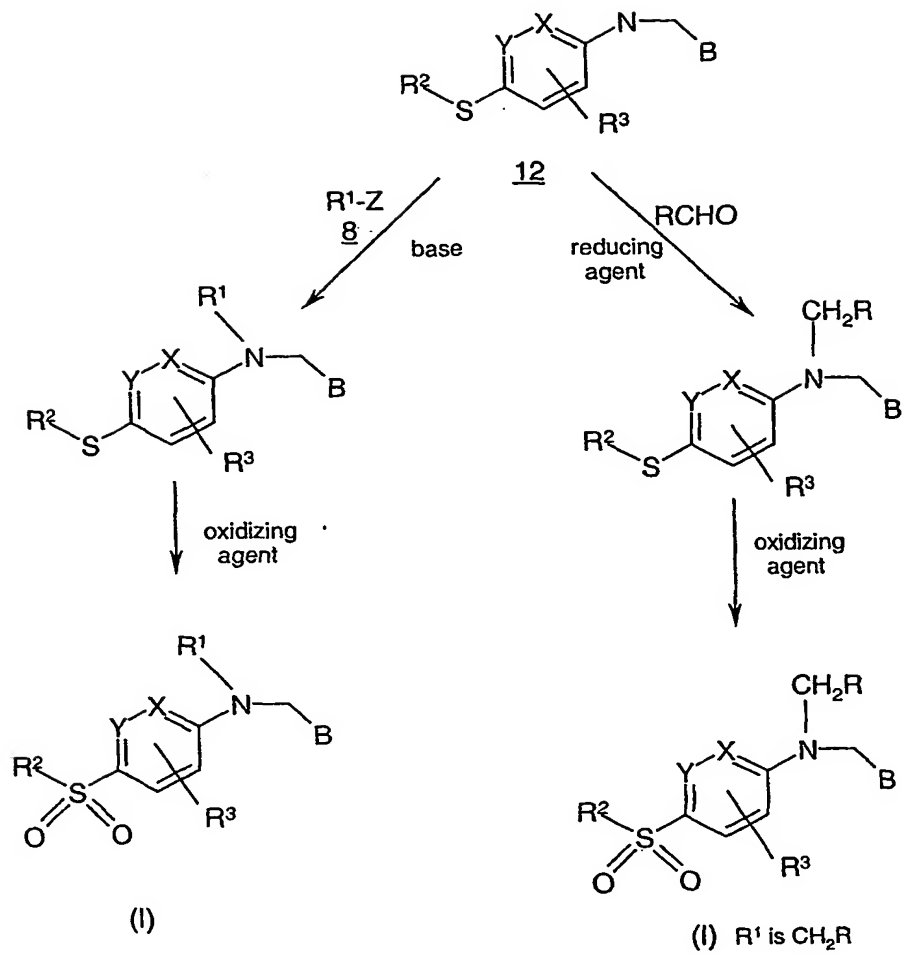
Scheme C2

In Step 1, a bromo-nitro-heteroaromatic compound is treated with NaSR₂ in DMF to displace the bromine to form the corresponding heteroaromatic sulfide. The sulfide is treated with TiCl₃ in acetone and NH₄OAc as described in *Chem. Soc.*

Perkin. Trans. I. 1990, 673 to give a compound of formula 10 that is carried forward into Scheme C.

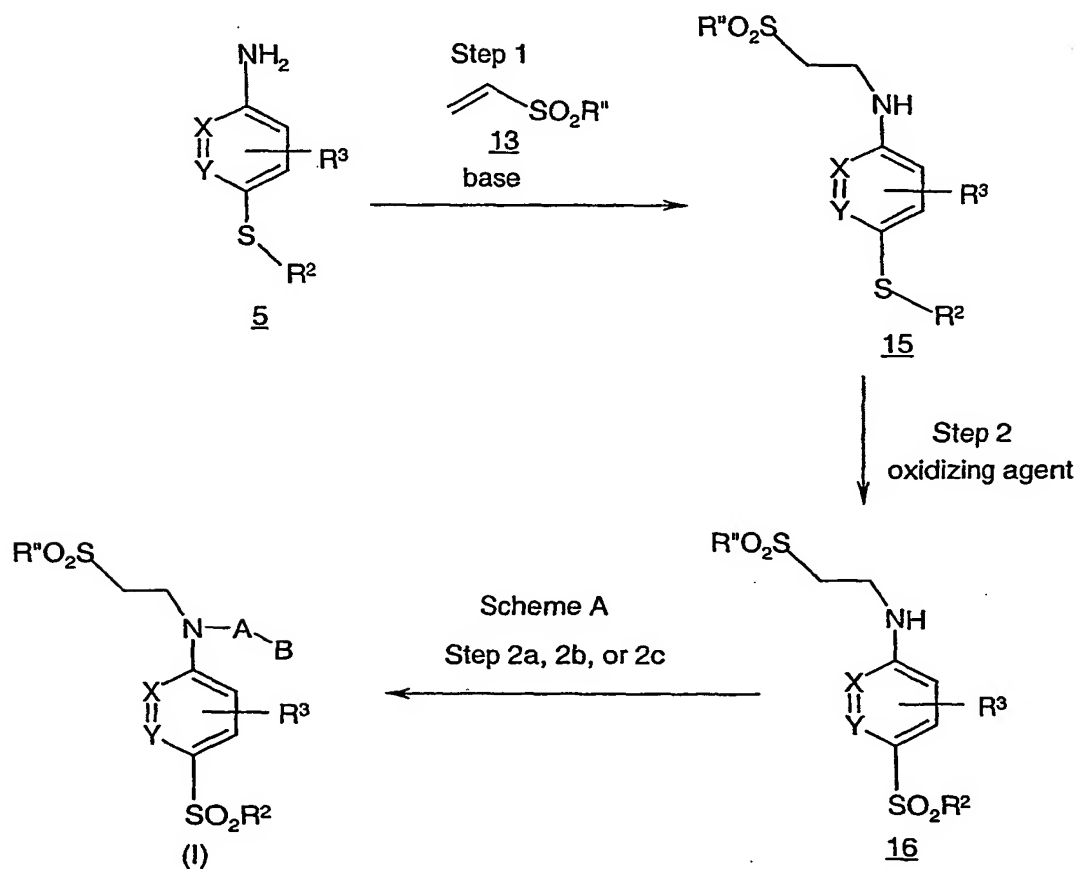
Intermediates of formula 12 from Scheme C may also be alkylated with an alkylating agent, R¹-Z, or reductively aminated with an aldehyde, RCHO, as shown in Scheme D to furnish corresponding compounds of Formula I after oxidation.

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Scheme D

Scheme E describes an alternative synthesis of a compound of formula (I) wherein X and Y are CH, R² is alkylsulfonylalkyl and R¹, R³, A, and B are as defined in the Summary of the Invention, wherein the alkylsulfonylalkyl group is introduced before the introduction of the A-B group.

5

Scheme E

10

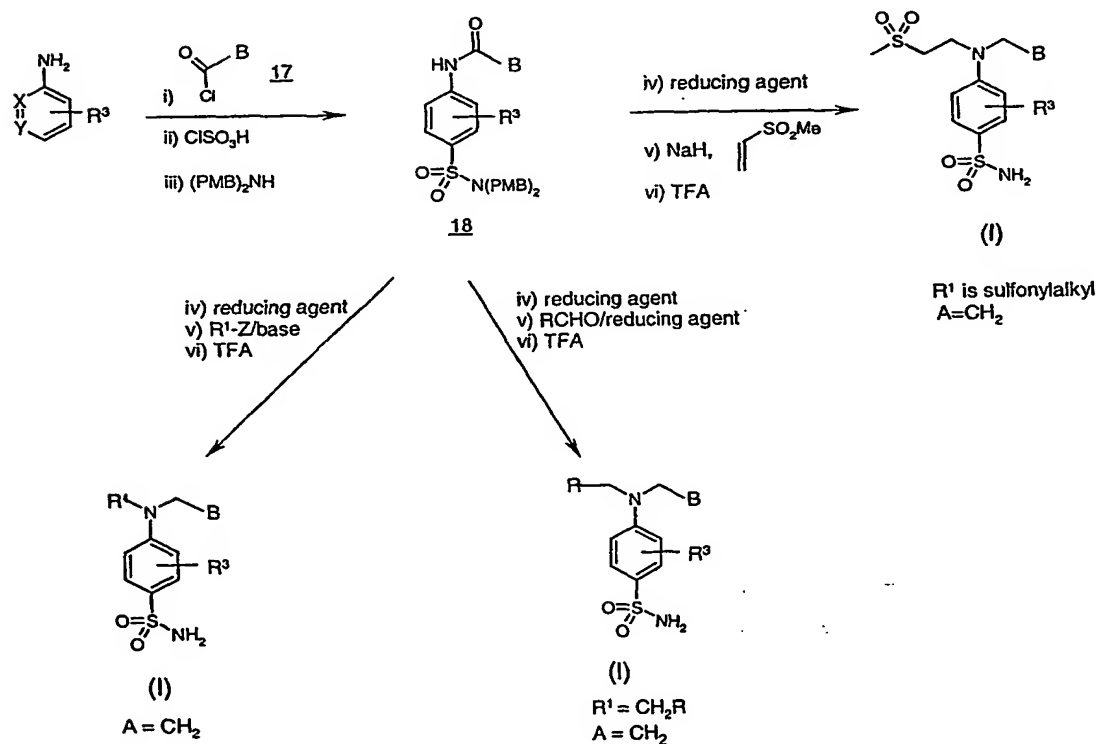
In Step 1, reaction of a compound of formula 5 with a vinyl sulfone of formula 13 in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride provides a compound of formula 15. Suitable solvents for the reaction are polar aprotic solvents such as DMF, DMSO, HMPA, and the like.

In Step 2, oxidation of a compound of formula 15 with a suitable oxidizing agent, such as potassium peroxymonosulfate (OXONE™), MCPBA, and the like, provides a sulfone of formula 16. Suitable solvents for the reaction are alcohols, such as methanol and ethanol.

Compounds of formula 16 may be converted to compounds of formula (I) by following Scheme A: Steps 2a, 2b, or 2c above.

Compounds where R^2 is NH_2 may be prepared by the sequence shown in Scheme F.

Scheme F



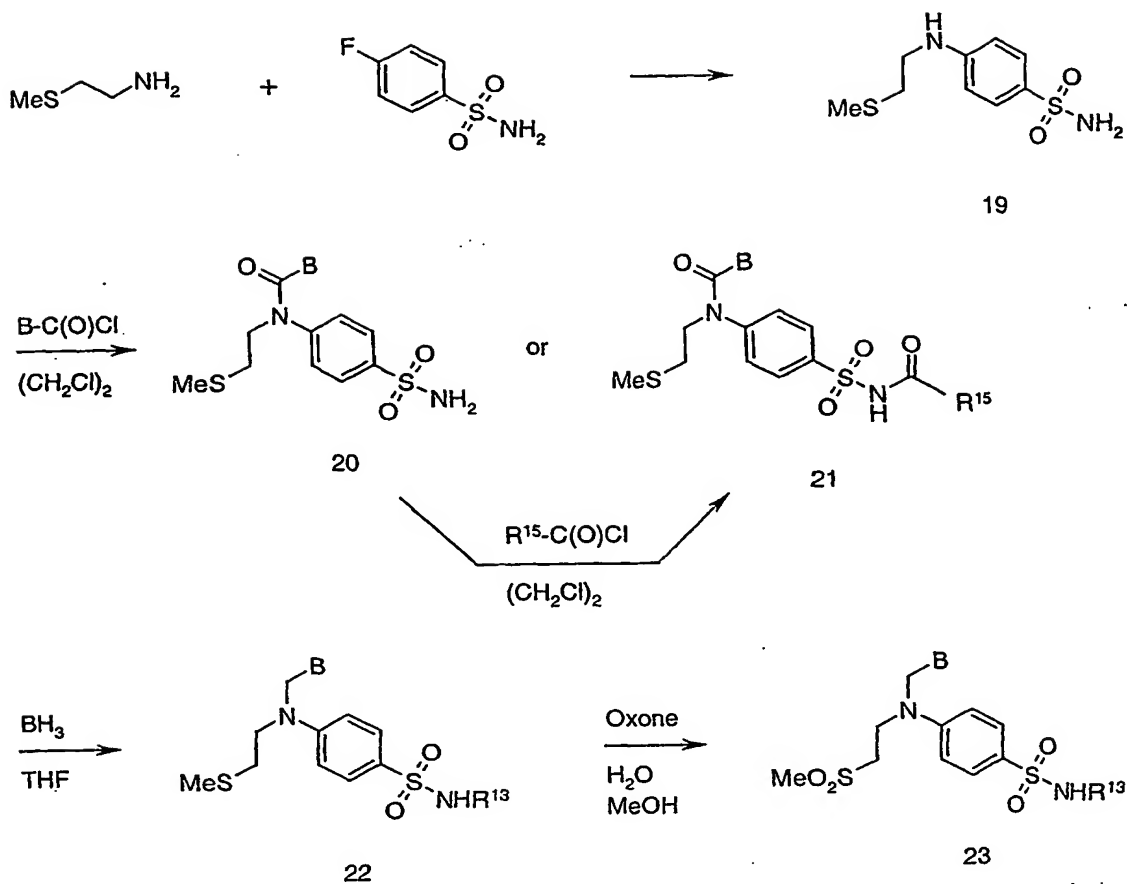
In step i) a compound of formula 5 is acylated with an acid chloride of formula 17 to give an amide that is chlorosulfonylated and aminated with bis(p-methoxybenzyl)amine (PMB) steps ii) and iii) to give a benzene sulfonamide of formula 18.

5 In step iv), reduction of the amide in 18 gives an amine which is then subsequently elaborated in steps v) and vi) by alkylation with a vinyl sulfone to give a compound of formula (I) where R^1 is 2-alkylsulfonyl-ethyl, or by alkylation with R^1-Z or by reductive amination with an aldehyde $RCHO$ as described earlier.

10 Additional compounds where R^2 is $NR^{13}R^{14}$ or NH_2 or may be prepared by Schemes G and H respectively as shown below.

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Scheme G



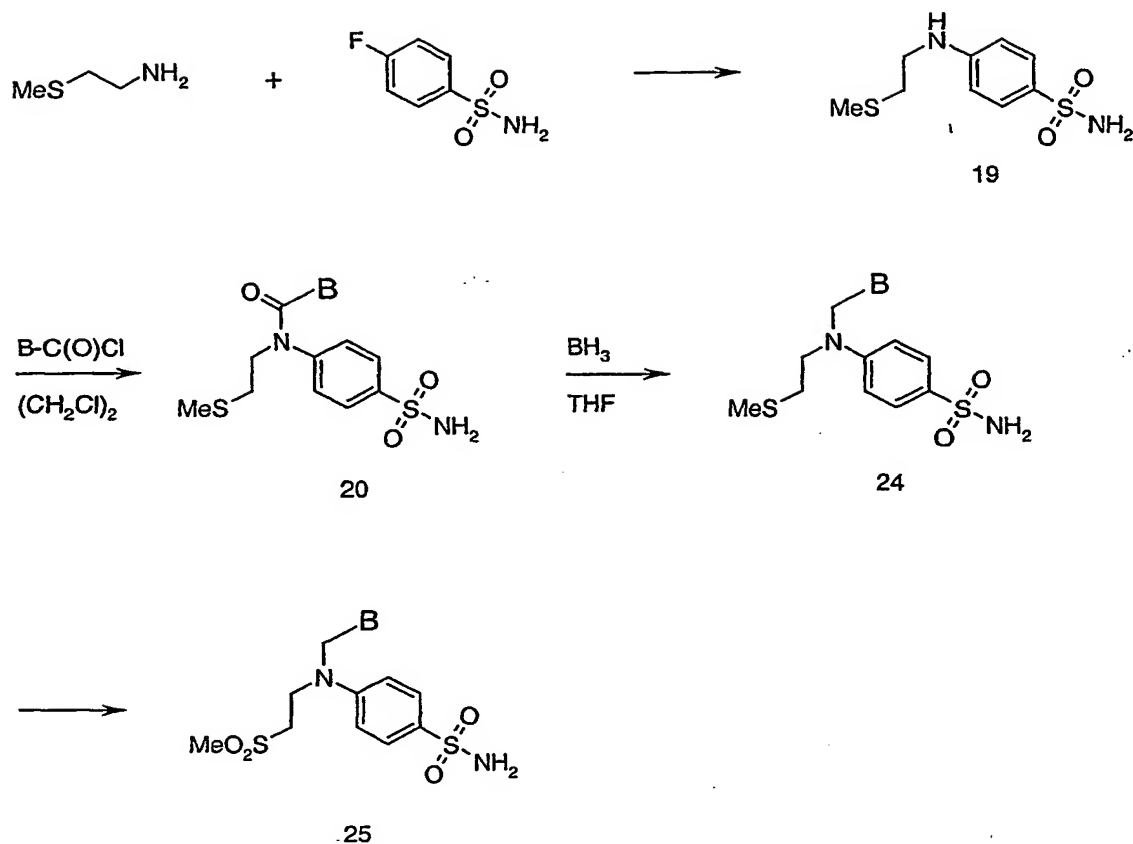
5

Acylation of a para-methylthioethylamino sulfonamide 19 in the absence of base with an acylating agent BC(O)Cl in an inert solvent provides the monoacylated intermediate 20. Subsequent acylation of the sulfonamido group of 20 provides the bisacylated product 21, which is then reduced to give intermediate 22. Oxidation then provides 23, i.e., compounds Formula I where $\text{A} = \text{CH}_2$ and $\text{R}^2 = \text{NHR}^{13}$ (R^{13} is alkyl).

10

39

Scheme H



Alternatively, as shown in Scheme H, the amide group in monoacylated
 intermediate 20 may be reduced to provide a compound of Formula 24, i.e.,
 compounds of Formula I where R^2 is NH_2 . Compounds of Formula 24 may be further
 elaborated by oxidation to provide compounds of Formula 25 where R^1 is
 alkylsulfonyl-alkyl group.

In light of this disclosure, a person of ordinary skill in the art may readily
 prepare any desired compound of formula (I) by following the preceding Schemes.

The compounds of the invention are inhibitors of prostaglandin G/H
 Synthase I and II (COX I and COX II), especially COX II, *in vitro*, and as such are
 expected to possess both anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties *in vivo*. See,
 for example, Goodman and Gilman's "The Pharmacological Basis of

Therapeutics", Ninth Edition, McGraw Hill, New York, 1996, Chapter 27. The compounds, and compositions containing them, are therefore useful as anti-inflammatory and analgesic agents in mammals, especially humans. They find utility in the treatment of fever, inflammation and pain caused by conditions such as rheumatic fever, symptoms associated with influenza or other viral infections, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrhoea, headache, toothache, sprains, myositis, synovitis, arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis), gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns or injuries. They maybe used to inhibit prostanoid-induced smooth muscle contractions (e.g., in the treatment of dysmenorrhoea, premature labor and asthma) and to treat autoimmune disorders (such as systemic lupus erythematosus and type I diabetes).

As inhibitors of prostaglandin G/H Synthase, the compounds of this invention are also expected to be useful in the prevention and treatment of cancer, in particular colon cancer. It has been shown that COX-2 gene expression is upregulated in human colorectal cancers and that drugs that inhibit prostaglandin G/H Synthase are effective in animal models of cancer (Eberhart, C.E., *et. al.*, *Gastroenterology*, **107**, 1183-1188, (1994), and Ara, G. and Teicher, B.A., *Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes and Essential Fatty Acids*, **54**, 3-16, (1996)). In addition, there is epidemiological evidence that shows a correlation between use of drugs that inhibit prostaglandin G/H synthase and a reduced risk of developing colorectal cancer, (Heath, C.W. Jr., *et. al.*, *Cancer*, **74**, No. 10, 2885-8, (1994)).

The compounds of this invention are also expected to be useful in the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Indomethacin, an inhibitor of prostaglandin G/H synthase, has been shown to inhibit the cognitive decline of Alzheimer's patients, (Rogers, J., *et. al.*, *Neurology*, **43**, 1609, (1993)). Also, the use of drugs which inhibit prostaglandin G/H synthase has been linked epidemiologically with a delayed onset of Alzheimer's disease, (Breitner, J.C.S., *et. al.*, *Neurobiology of Aging*, **16**, No. 4, 523, (1995) and *Neurology*, **44**, 2073, (1994)).

The anti-inflammatory activity of the compounds of this invention may be assayed by measuring the ability of the compound to inhibit COX I and COX II, especially COX II, *in vitro*, using a radiometric assay, as described in more detail in Example 9. It may also be assayed by *in vivo* assays such as the Rat Carrageenan Paw and Rat Air-Pouch assays, as described in more detail in Examples 10 and 11. The analgesic activity of the compounds of this invention may be assayed by *in vivo* assays such as the Randall-Selitto assay and the rat arthritis pain model, as described in Example 12.

In general, the compounds of this invention will be administered in a therapeutically effective amount by any of the accepted modes of administration for agents that serve similar utilities. The actual amount of the compound of this invention, i.e., the active ingredient, will depend upon numerous factors such as the severity of the disease to be treated, the age and relative health of the subject, the potency of the compound used, the route and form of administration, and other factors.

Therapeutically effective amounts of compounds of formula (I) may range from approximately 0.05-35 mg per kilogram body weight of the recipient per day, preferably about 0.15-7 mg/kg/day, most preferably about 0.35 mg/kg/day to 3 mg/kg/day. Thus, for administration to a 70 kg person, the dosage range would preferably be about 10.5 mg to 500 mg per day, most preferably about 25 mg to 200 mg per day.

In light of this disclosure, a person of ordinary skill in the art will have no difficulty in determining what a therapeutically effective amount is.

In general, compounds of this invention will be administered as pharmaceutical compositions by any one of the following routes: oral, systemic (e.g., transdermal, intranasal or by suppository), or parenteral (e.g., intramuscular, intravenous or subcutaneous) administration. The preferred manner of administration is oral using a convenient daily dosage regimen which can be adjusted according to the degree of affliction. Compositions can take the form of

tablets, pills, capsules, semisolids, powders, sustained release formulations, solutions, suspensions, elixirs, aerosols, or any other appropriate compositions.

The choice of formulation depends on various factors such as the mode of drug administration (e.g., for oral administration, formulations in the form of tablets, pills or capsules are preferred) and the bioavailability of the drug substance. Recently, pharmaceutical formulations have been developed especially for drugs that show poor bioavailability based upon the principle that bioavailability can be increased by increasing the surface area i.e., decreasing particle size. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,107,288 describes a pharmaceutical formulation having particles in the size range from 10 to 1,000 nm in which the active material is supported on a crosslinked matrix of macromolecules. U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,684 describes the production of a pharmaceutical formulation in which the drug substance is pulverized to nanoparticles (average particle size of 400 nm) in the presence of a surface modifier and then dispersed in a liquid medium to give a pharmaceutical formulation that exhibits remarkably high bioavailability.

The compositions are comprised of, in general, a compound of formula (I) in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. Acceptable excipients are non-toxic, aid administration, and do not adversely affect the therapeutic benefit of the compound of formula (I). Such excipient may be any solid, liquid, semi-solid or, in the case of an aerosol composition, gaseous excipient that is generally available to one of skill in the art.

Solid pharmaceutical excipients include starch, cellulose, talc, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, glycerol monostearate, sodium chloride, dried skim milk and the like. Liquid and semisolid excipients may be selected from glycerol, propylene glycol, water, ethanol and various oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, e.g., peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil, etc. Preferred liquid carriers, particularly for injectable solutions, include water, saline, aqueous dextrose, and glycols.

Compressed gases may be used to disperse a compound of this invention in aerosol form. Inert gases suitable for this purpose are nitrogen, carbon dioxide, etc.

Other suitable pharmaceutical excipients and their formulations are described in *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, edited by E. W. Martin (Mack Publishing Company, 18th ed., 1990).

The level of the compound in a formulation can vary within the full range employed by those skilled in the art. Typically, the formulation will contain, on a weight percent (wt %) basis, from about 0.01-99.99 wt % of a compound of formula (I) based on the total formulation, with the balance being one or more suitable pharmaceutical excipients. Preferably, the compound is present at a level of about 1-80 wt %. Representative pharmaceutical formulations containing a compound of formula (I) are described in Example 8.

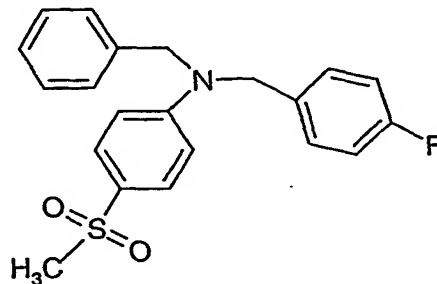
A person of ordinary skill in the art will have no difficulty, having regard to that skill and this disclosure in determining how to make a suitable formulation.

EXAMPLES

Abbreviations used in the examples are defined as follows: "HCl" for hydrochloric acid, "DMF" for dimethylformamide, "NaOH" for sodium hydroxide, "DMSO" for dimethylsulfoxide, "THF" for tetrahydrofuran, "BINAP" for 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl.

Example 1

Synthesis of 4-[N,N-(benzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-42)



Step 1

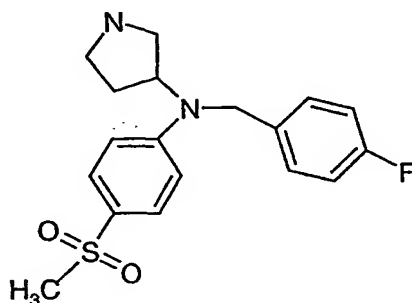
To 5.0 ml (40.19 mmol) of 4-(methylthio)aniline and 8.4 ml (60.28 mmol) triethylamine dissolved in 30 ml dichloromethane was added 5.0 ml (40.19 mmol) 4-fluorobenzyl bromide. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, partitioned between dichloromethane and sat. aqueous ammonium chloride, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 3.10 g of 4-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]thioanisole, along with recovered starting material.

Step 2

10 100 mg (0.40 mmol) of 4-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]thioanisole was dissolved in 2 ml of DMF, to which 76 mg (0.44 mmol) of benzyl bromide was added, followed by 19 mg (0.80 mmol) of NaH. The mixture was warmed to 50°C and stirred 48 h, quenched with water and concentrated. The residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to provide 70 mg (0.207 mmol) of crude 4-[N,N-(benzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]thioanisole.

Step 3

The crude 4-[N,N-(benzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]thioanisole was dissolved in 1.5 ml of methanol, to which 254 mg (0.414 mmol) of OXONETM was added. 20 The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to provide 36 mg of 4-[N,N-(benzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone.

Example 2Synthesis of 4-[N,N-(pyrrolidin-3-yl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone
(1-40)Step 1

To 500 mg (2.87 mmol) 4-fluorophenyl methyl sulfone dissolved in 4 ml DMF was added 247mg (2.87mmol) 3-aminopyrrolidine followed by 793 mg (5.74 mmol) potassium carbonate. The mixture was heated to 70°C and stirred for 48 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to provide 708 mg of 4-(pyrrolidin-3-ylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 2

4-(pyrrolidin-3-ylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone (2.96 mmol) was dissolved in 5 ml of THF, to which 645 mg (2.96 mmol) di-*tert* butyl dicarbonate was added. After 1 h, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and the product crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to provide 461 mg of 4-(N-BOC-pyrrolidin-3-ylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 3

4-(N-BOC-pyrrolidin-3-ylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone (1.35 mmol) was dissolved in 4 ml of DMF, to which 168 µl (1.35 mmol) of 4-fluorobenzyl bromide was added, followed by 62 mg (2.70 mmol) of NaH. The mixture was warmed to 70°C and stirred 48 h, then quenched with water, partitioned between ethyl acetate

and water, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. The product was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to provide 380 mg of 4-[N,N-(N-BOC-pyrrolidin-3-yl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ^1H NMR; mp $174.4\text{--}178.0^\circ\text{C}$. Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}\cdot 0.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ C, 60.37; H, 6.61; N, 6.12. Found C, 60.61; H, 6.40; N, 6.34. (38)

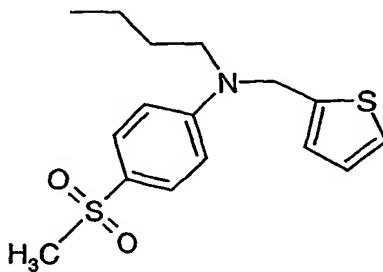
To 200 mg (0.45 mmol) of 4-[N,N-(N-BOC-pyrrolidin-3-yl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone dissolved in 5 ml of dichloromethane was added 2 ml of trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, partitioned between dichloromethane and aqueous saturated NaHCO_3 , was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated to provide 148 mg of 4-[N,N-(pyrrolidin-3-yl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ^1H NMR, mp $124.0\text{--}124.3^\circ\text{C}$. Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ C, 62.05; H, 6.07; N, 8.04. Found C, 61.29; H, 6.00; N, 7.92. (40)

Following the procedure of Example 2, but replacing 3-aminopyrrolidine in Step 1 with the appropriate amine gave the compounds 1-21, 1-24 to 130, 1-32, 1-36 to 141 and 1-43 of Table 1.

Following the procedure of Example 2, but replacing 3-aminopyrrolidine in Step 1 with n-butylamine and replacing 4-fluorobenzyl bromide in Step 3 with the appropriate aralkyl bromide gave the compounds 1-23 and 1-47 to 154 of Table 1.

Example 3

Synthesis of 4-[N,N-(butyl)(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-22)



Step 1

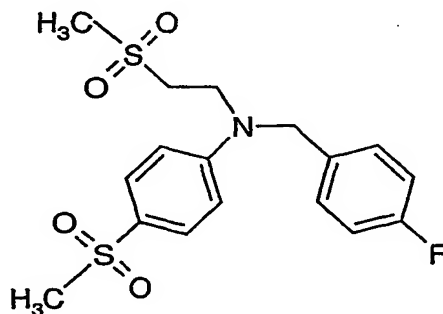
To 1.0 g (5.74 mmol) 4-fluorophenyl methyl sulfone dissolved in 5 ml DMF
5 was added 840 μ l (11.48 mmol) butylamine followed by 873 mg (6.31 mmol)
potassium carbonate. The mixture was heated to 60°C and stirred for 48 h. Upon
cooling to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and
water, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. Purification by column
10 chromatography, eluting with dichloromethane/hexane, provided 600 mg product 4-
(butylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ^1H NMR.

Step 2

To 250 mg (1.1 mmol) of 4-(butylamino)phenyl methyl sulfone and 103 μ l
2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde dissolved in 5 ml dichloromethane was added 350 mg
(1.65 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride, followed by 50 μ l of acetic acid. The
15 reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The mixture was then
partitioned between ethyl acetate and brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated.
Purification by HPLC chromatography provided 58 mg of 4-[N,N-(butyl)(thiophen-
2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (22).

Example 4

20 Synthesis of 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino}phenyl
methyl sulfone (1-35)



Step 1

To 8.28 g (47.52 mmol) of 4-fluorophenyl methyl sulfone dissolved in 20 ml DMF was added 5.20 g (57.03 mmol) of 2-(methylthio)ethyl amine (1.2 eq.), followed by 13.13 g (95.04 mmol, 2 eq.) potassium carbonate. The mixture was heated to 65°C and stirred for 12 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 5.53 g of 4-[2-(methylthio)ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 2

To 2.5 g of 4-[2-(methylthio)ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone (10.19 mmol) dissolved in 10 ml DMF was added 1.26 ml (10.19 mmol) of 4-fluorobenzyl bromide and 468 mg (20.38 mmol) of NaH. After stirring 1 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water and partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 2.44 g product 4-[N,N-(methylthioethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 3

To 2.44 g (6.91 mmol) of 4-[N,N-[2-(methylthio)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone dissolved in 40 ml MeOH was added 8.5 g (13.83 mmol) OXONETM, followed by slow addition of 5 ml H₂O. After stirring at room temperature for 7 h, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The product was crystallized from CH₂Cl₂ to obtain 600 mg of 4-[N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR, mp 168.6-172.7 °C.

Following the procedure of Example 4, but replacing 2-(methylthio)ethyl amine in Step 1 with 2-(methylthio)propyl amine gave 4-[N,N-[3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-33).

Following the procedure of Example 4, but replacing 2-(methylthio)ethyl amine in step 1 with 2-(ethylthio)ethyl amine gave 4-[N,N-[2-

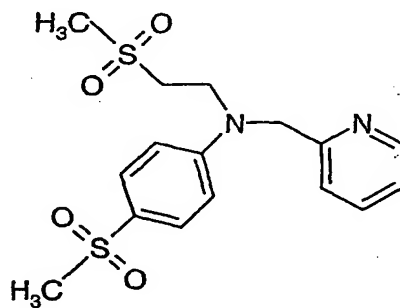
(ethylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone. Mp. 109.6-110.7 °C Anal. Calcd. For $C_{18}H_{22}FNO_4S_2$ C, 54.12; H, 5.55; N, 3.51. Found C, 53.72; H, 5.48; N, 3.58. (1-34)

Following the procedure of Example 4, but replacing 4-fluorobenzyl bromide in Step 3 with 2,4-difluorobenzyl bromide gave 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](2,4-difluorobenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone. Mpt. 149.4-150.4 °C. Anal. Calcd. For $C_{17}H_{19}F_2NO_4S_2 \cdot 0.25H_2O$ C, 50.05; H, 4.82; N, 3.43. Found C, 50.04; H, 4.63; N, 3.45. (1-44)

Following the procedure of Example 4, but replacing 4-fluorobenzyl bromide in Step 2 with the appropriate aralkyl bromide gave the compounds 1-31, 1-46, 1-55, 1-56 and 1-71 of Table 1.

Example 5

Synthesis of 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone (1-45)



Step 1

To 2.0 ml (16.07 mmol) of 4-(methylthio)aniline dissolved in 25 ml dichloromethane was added 1.52 ml (16.07 mmol) 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde, followed by 5.11 g (24.11 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated. Column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 3.70 g of 4-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]thioanisole, pure by 1H NMR.

Step 2

To 500 mg (2.17 mmol) of 4-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]thioanisole, dissolved in 10 ml *N,N*-dimethylformamide, was added 230 mg (2.17 mmol) methyl vinyl sulfone followed by 50 mg (2.17 mmol) sodium hydride. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, partitioned between EtOAc and brine; dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Crude 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](pyridin-2-ylmethyl) amino}thioanisole was obtained in 98% yield (730 mg) and was pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 3

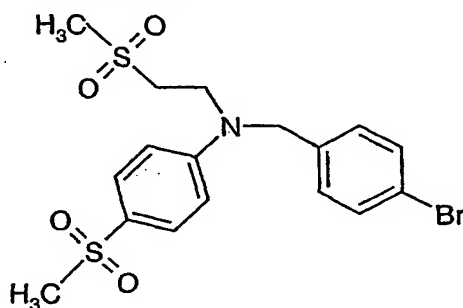
To 718 mg (2.13 mmol) of 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino}thioanisole dissolved in 10 ml methanol was added 2.62 g (4.27 mmol) oxone followed by 500 µl water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, then partitioned between EtOAc and water, adding 1 N NaOH until the aqueous phase was neutral. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone in 57% yield (446 mg), pure by ¹H NMR.

Following the procedure of Example 5, but replacing 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde in Step 1 with the appropriate heteroaralkyl bromide gave the compounds 1-57 to 1-59, 1-63, 1-64, 1-66 and 1-67 of Table 1.

Following the procedure of Example 5, but replacing 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde in Step 1 with the appropriate aralkyl bromide and replacing methyl vinyl sulfone in step 2 with the appropriate vinyl sulfone gave the compounds of 1-80 and 1-81 of Table 1.

Example 6

Synthesis of 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-bromobenzyl)amino}phenyl
methyl sulfone (1-12)

5 Step 1

To 8.94 ml (1.83 mmol) of 4-(methylthio)aniline dissolved in 100 ml DMF was added 1.72 g (71.67 mmol) NaH at 0°C, followed with 6.29 ml (71.80 mmol) methyl vinyl sulfone. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14h, quenched with MeOH and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂, washed with aqueous HCl (1M) (2 x 100 ml), then water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane : ethyl acetate 1:1) to provide 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]ethylamino]phenyl methylthiol (3.60 g) as a yellow solid.

Step 2

15 A solution of 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]ethylamino]phenyl methylthiol (3.60 g; 14.67 mmol) in 200 ml MeOH and 50 ml THF was cooled to 0°C, to which a mixture of 13.57 g (22.07 mmol) OXONETM with 50 ml warm water was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minute. The OXONETM solid was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated. A brown solid precipitated out during the concentrated, which was filtered out to provide 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]-ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone (2.38 g).

Step 3

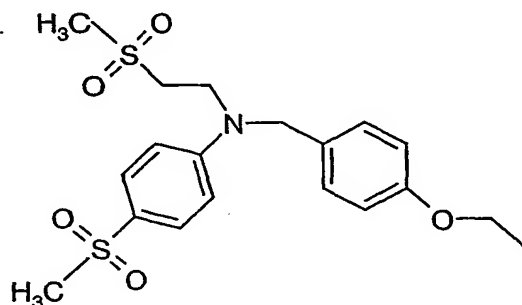
To a solution of 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone (0.80 g; 2.88 mmol) in 20 ml DMF was added 0.104 g (4.33 mmol) NaH followed by 1.25 ml (9.21 mmol) 4-bromobenzyl bromide. The mixture was stirred at room

temperature for 1h, quenched with MeOH and concentrated. The residue was purified by prep-TLC (hexane: ethyl acetate 1:2) to provide 0.765 g product 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-bromobenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone as a white foam.

Following the procedure of Example 6, but replacing 4-bromobenzyl bromide in Step 3 with the appropriate aralkyl bromide or the appropriate heteroaralkyl bromide gave the compounds 1-1 to 1-11, 1-13 to 1-20, 1-62 and 1-75 of Table 1.

Example 7

Synthesis of 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl](4-ethoxybenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone (1-65)



Step 1

To 8.94 ml (1.83 mmol) of 4-(methylthio)aniline dissolved in 100 ml DMF was added 1.72 g (71.67 mmol) NaH at 0° C, followed with 6.29 ml (71.80 mmol) methyl vinyl sulfone. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14h, quenched with MeOH and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂, washed with aqueous HCl (1M) (2 x100 ml), then water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane : ethyl acetate 1:1) to provide 4-[2-methylsulfonyl) ethylamino]phenyl methylthiol (3.60 g) as a yellow solid.

Step 2

A solution of 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]ethylamino]phenyl methylthiol (3.60 g; 14.67 mmol) in 200 ml MeOH and 50 ml THF was cooled to 0° C, to which a mixture of 13.57 g (22.07 mmol) OXONE™ with 50 ml warm water was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minute. The OXONE™ solid was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated. A brown solid precipitated out during the concentrated, which was filtered out to provide 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]-ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone (2.38 g).

Step 3

To a solution of 4-[2-methylsulfonyl]ethylamino]phenyl methyl sulfone (0.548 g; 1.97 mmol) and 0.73 g (3.95 mmol) 4-ethoxybenzoyl chloride in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ was added 0.32 ml (3.95 mmol) pyridine. The mixture was warmed to 45 °C and stirred for 14h.

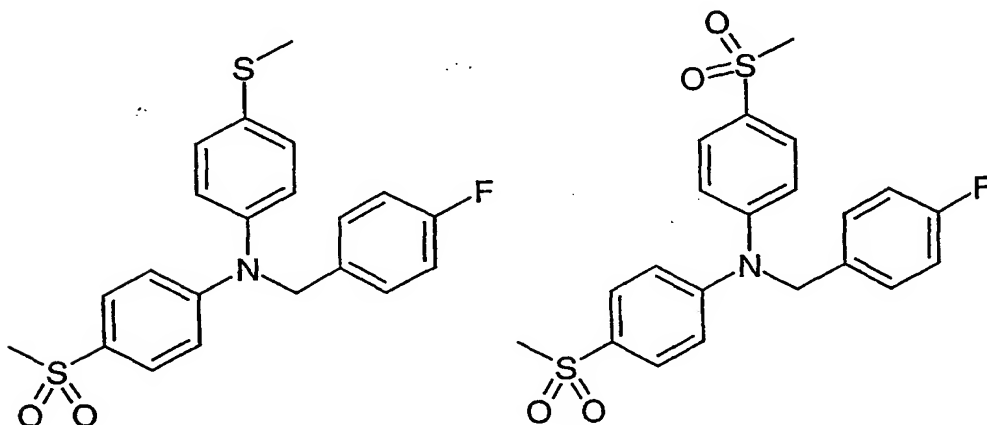
The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified with prep-TLC (hexane: ethyl acetate 1:3) to provide 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-(4-ethoxybenzyl) amino }phenyl methyl sulfone (0.664 g) as a white foam.

The above product, 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-amino }phenyl methyl sulfone (0.42 g; 0.98 mmol), was dissolved in 20 ml anhydrous toluene, to which 0.098 ml (0.98 mmol) BH₃•Me₂S (10.0 – 10.2 M) complex was added. The mixture was refluxed with stirring for 18 h, and quenched with aqueous NaHCO₃ (8 ml). The toluene layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 100 ml). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified with prep-plate (hexane : ethyl acetate 1:2) to provide 4-{N,N-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-(4-ethoxybenzyl)amino }phenyl methyl sulfone (0.143 g) product as a white foam.

Example 8

Synthesis of 4-[N,N-(4-methylsulfonylphenyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-68) and 4-[N,N-(4-methylthiophenyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-69)

5

Step 1

10 To 150 mg (0.64 mmol) 4-bromo-phenyl methyl sulfone, 7.8 mg (2%) tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0), 10.6 mg (4%) BINAP, and 277 mg (0.85 mmol) Cs₂CO₃ in 2 ml toluene was added 63.5 μ l (0.51 mmol) 4-(methylthio)-aniline. The mixture was heated to 100°C under N₂ and was stirred for 48h. The mixture was cooled, diluted with ether, filtered through celite, and concentrated.

15 Purification by column chromatography, eluting with EtOAc/hexane, provided 128 mg product 4-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)phenyl methyl sulfide, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 2

20 To 191 mg (0.65 mmol) 4-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenylamino)phenyl methyl sulfide in 3 ml DMF was added 27 mg (0.68 mmol) sodium hydride. The mixture was stirred under N₂ for 15 min, then 122 μ l (0.98 mmol) p-fluorobenzylbromide

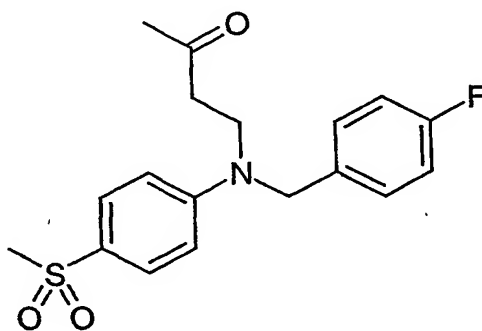
was added. The mixture was stirred for 18h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with EtOAc/hexane, provided 118 mg product 4-{N,N-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfide, pure by ^1H NMR and LCMS.

Step 3

To 138 mg (0.34 mmol) 4-{N,N-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfide and 423 mg (0.69 mmol) oxone in 3 ml methanol was added 3 drops (10% by vol) water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with EtOAc/hexane, provided 115 mg product 4-[N,N-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ^1H NMR and LCMS.

Example 9

Synthesis of 4-{N,N-(3-oxo-butyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone (1-70)



Step 1

To 2.9 ml (23 mmol) 4-methylthio-aniline and 2.9 ml (23 mmol) 4-fluorobenzylbromide in 50 ml CH_2Cl_2 was added 6.5 ml (47 mmol) triethylamine. The mixture was stirred at rt for 18h. The mixture was washed with water, dried

over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with EtOAc/hexane, provided 2.2g product 4-(4-fluorobenzylamino)phenyl methyl sulfide, pure by ¹H NMR.

5 Step 2

To 100 mg (0.40 mmol) 4-(4-fluorobenzylamino)phenyl methyl sulfide in 1 ml dioxane and 1 ml phosphate buffer [1:4 KH₂PO₄/K₂HPO₄ with pH 7] was added dropwise 40 µl (0.48 mmol) methyl vinyl ketone. The biphasic mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18h. Another 40 µl (0.48 mmol) methyl vinyl ketone was added, and the mixture was stirred for 18h. The mixture was extracted with ether, which was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with EtOAc/hexane, did not provide separation. The crude 55 mg product 4-[N,N-(3-oxo-butyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfide was used directly in Step 3.

15

Step 3

To 55 mg (0.17 mmol) 4-[N,N-(3-oxo-butyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfide in 2 ml methanol was added 215 mg (0.35 mmol) oxone and 2 drops (10% by vol) water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Purification by preparative TLC, developing with EtOAc/hexane, provided 5.4 mg 4-[N,N-(3-oxobutyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]phenyl methyl sulfone, pure by ¹H NMR and LCMS.

20

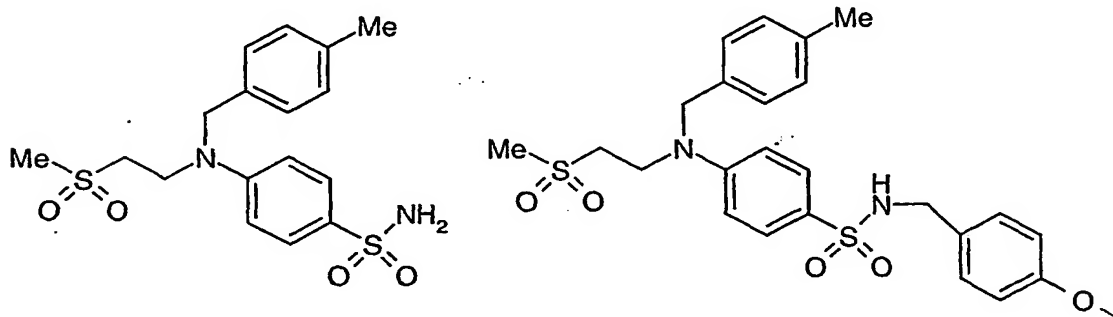
Example 10

4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (2-2)

and

4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)amino]-N-(4-methoxy-benzyl)-

benzenesulfonamide (2-1)

Step 1

To a 0 °C dichloromethane (300 ml) solution of 25 ml (274 mmol) of aniline was added 16 ml (123 mmol) para-toluoyl chloride over 10 min. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, treated with 200 ml of ether and filtered immediately. The filtrate was washed with 1 M HCl (2 x 50 ml), 0.1 M NaOH (2 x 50 ml), and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Para-methylbenzanilide (17.3 g) was obtained as a tan solid and used directly.

Steps ii) and iii)

Chlorosulfonic acid (5 ml) was cooled to 0 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere and treated with para-methylbenzanilide (850 mg, 4.0 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, recooled with an ice-bath, treated with ca. 25 g of ice, ca. 100 ml of saturated sodium bicarbonate and bis(para-methoxybenzyl)amine (prepared according to *J. Org. Chem.* 1992, 57, 7056, 1.1 g, 4.4 mmol) dissolved in ca. 50 ml of dichloromethane. The biphasic mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 16 h. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane, washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with 1:3 ethyl

acetate/hexane, provided 1.4 g of 4-[(4-methyl-benzoyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxy-benzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide.

Step iv)

4-[(4-methyl-benzoyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxy-benzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide (1.4 g, 2.6 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (60 ml), treated with borane methyl sulfide complex (0.57 ml, 5.7 mmol) and heated to reflux for 2 h. Upon cooling, the mixture was quenched with $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{10}$, partitioned between pH 4 buffer and ethyl acetate, and dried over MgSO_4 . Purification by column chromatography, eluting with 2:3 ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 1.03 g of 4-[(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxy-benzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide.

Step v)

4-[(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxy-benzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide (1.03 g, 2.6 mmol) was dissolved in 6 ml of DMF at room temperature, to which methylvinyl sulfone (0.175 ml, 2.0 mmol) and sodium hydride (95%, 60 mg, 2.4 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h, partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, dried over MgSO_4 and purified by column chromatography, eluting with 1:4 acetone/hexane, to provide 935 mg of 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxy-benzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide.

Step vi)

4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-[N,N-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)]-benzenesulfonamide (730 mg, 1.17 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (5 ml) at room temperature and treated with trifluoroacetic acid (5 ml). After 6 h, the volatiles were removed on a rotary evaporator and the residue was partitioned between aqueous sodium bicarbonate and ethyl acetate. Following drying over Na_2SO_4 and removal of the volatiles, the mixture was purified by column chromatography eluting with 2:3 ethyl acetate/hexane. The first product to elute was 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)amino]-N-(4-methoxybenzyl)-benzenesulfonamide (276 mg): mp 85.7-86.6 °C. The next product to elute was 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-methyl-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide

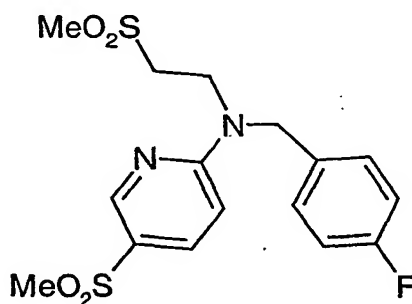
(184 mg): mp 169.1-170.0 °C, Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{22}N_2O_4S_2(H_2O)_{0.6}$: C, 53.34; H, 5.77; N, 6.91. Found: C, 53.33; H, 5.74; N, 7.30.

Following the procedure of Example 10, but replacing p-toluoyl chloride in
Step 1 with 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride in Step 1, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-
fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide was produced as an amorphous glass:
Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{19}FN_2O_4S_2$: C, 49.73; H, 4.96; N, 7.25. Found: C, 49.39; H,
4.96; N, 6.86. (2-3)

Following the procedure of Example 10, but replacing p-toluoyl chloride in
Step 1 with 2,4-difluorobenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2,4-
difluorobenzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide was produced: mp 152.9-153.2 °C. (2-
4)

Example 11

3-[N,N-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-6-yl methyl
sulfone (1-60)



To a solution of 2.0 g (9.85 mmol) 2-bromo-5-nitropyridine dissolved in 8
ml DMF was added 690 mg (9.85 mmol) of sodium thiomethoxide. The mixture
was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and partitioned between ethyl acetate and
water, dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated to obtain 1.13 g of 2-methylthio-5-nitro-
pyridine, pure by 1H NMR.

To a separatory funnel containing 646 mg (3.796 mmol) 2-methylthio-5-nitro-pyridine dissolved in 20 ml acetone and 150 ml 4 M ammonium acetate was added 26.57 ml (26.57 mmol) of a 1M solution of TiCl_3 dissolved in $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{THF}$. The mixture was shaken for 5 min, ethyl acetate added, and partitioned, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 185 mg product, 5-amino-2-methylthio-pyridine, pure by ^1H NMR.

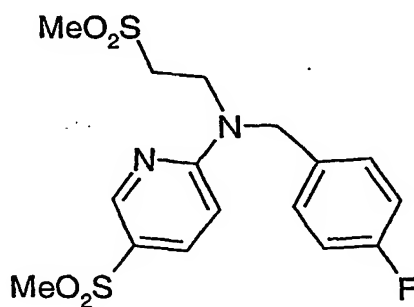
To 344 μl (3.20 mmol) of 4-fluorobenzaldehyde and 449 mg (3.20 mmol) of 5-amino-2-methylthio-pyridine dissolved in 8 ml dichloromethane was added 1.11 g (5.25 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h, and partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated to obtain 320 mg of 5-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-2-yl methyl sulfide, pure by ^1H NMR.

To 320 mg (1.29 mmol) of 5-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-2-yl methyl sulfide dissolved in 5 ml *N,N*-dimethylformamide was added 137 mg (1.29 mmol) methyl vinyl sulfone followed by 30mg (1.29 mmol) sodium hydride. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h, partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. Crystallization from CH_2Cl_2 /hexane afforded 447 mg of product, 5-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-2-yl methyl sulfide, pure by ^1H NMR.

To 447 mg (1.26 mmol) of 5-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-2-yl methyl sulfide dissolved in 5 ml methanol was added 1.55 g (2.52 mmol) oxone followed by 500 μl water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, then partitioned between EtOAc and water, adding 1 N NaOH until the aqueous phase was neutral. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated to obtain 387 mg product, 5-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-2-yl methyl sulfone.

Example 12

2-[N,N-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfone (1-61)

Step 1

To a solution of 16 ml of 10% H₂O₂ in 24 ml concentrated H₂SO₄ at 0°C was added a solution of 2.34 g of 2-amino-5-bromopyridine dropwise with stirring. The ice bath was then removed, and allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring at room temperature for 5 h, the reaction mixture was poured over ice and 1.62 g of the precipitated product, 5-bromo-2-nitro-pyridine, collected by vacuum filtration.

Step 2

To a solution of 1.0 g (4.93 mmol) 5-bromo-2-nitro-pyridine, dissolved in 10 ml DMF was added 379 mg (5.42 mmol) of sodium thiomethoxide followed by 569 mg (0.493 mmol) of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0). The mixture was heated to 80°C for 2 h, cooled to room temperature, and partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 318 mg of product, 5-methylthio-2-nitro-pyridine, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 3

To 318 mg (1.86 mmol) of 5-methylthio-2-nitro-pyridine, dissolved in 10 ml acetone was added 7.44 ml (7.44 mmol) of a 1M solution of TiCl₃ dissolved in HCl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min, partitioned with ethyl

acetate and 1N NaOH until neutral, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to provide 225 mg of product, 2-amino-5-methylthio-pyridine, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 4

To 112 µl (1.05 mmol) of 4-fluorobenzaldehyde and 147 mg (1.05 mmol) of 2-amino-5-methylthio-pyridine, dissolved in 6 ml dichloromethane was added 334 mg (1.57 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The mixture was then partitioned between ethyl acetate and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 185 mg product, 2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfide, pure by ¹H NMR.

Step 5

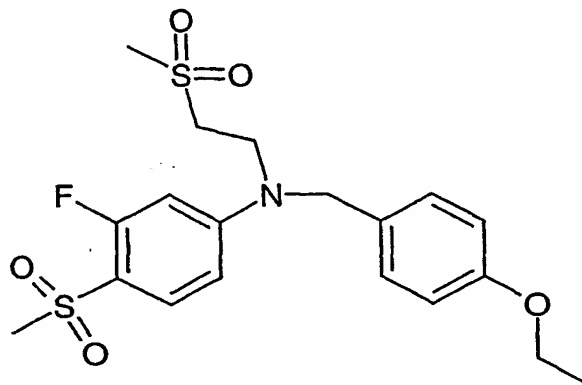
To 185 mg (0.744 mmol) of 2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfide dissolved in 3 ml *N,N*-dimethylformamide was added 80 mg (0.744 mmol) methyl vinyl sulfone followed by 17 mg (0.744 mmol) sodium hydride. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.25 h, partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to obtain 262 mg of product, 2-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfide.

Step 6

To 262 mg (0.74 mmol) of 2-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfide dissolved in 3 ml methanol was added 939 mg (1.53 mmol) oxone followed by 500 µl water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, then partitioned between EtOAc and water, adding 1 N NaOH until the aqueous phase was neutral. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to obtain 271 mg product of 2-[*N,N*-(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-pyridin-5-yl methyl sulfone.

Example 13

Synthesis of (4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-amine (1-72)

Step 1 (3-fluoro-4-thiomethyl-nitrobenzene):

A solution of 3,4-difluoronitrobenzene (5.0g) in 65 ml dimethylformamide was treated all at once with sodium thiomethoxide (3.0 g). After stirring overnight at ambient temperature under nitrogen the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with hexanes/ethyl acetate (1/1). The organic layers were combined and washed with water and brine. Filtration of the dried organic layer through a pad of silica gel was followed by solvent removal to afford 3.98 g solid 3-fluoro-4-thiomethyl-nitrobenzene, which was carried on without characterization.

Step 2 (3-fluoro-4-thiomethyl-aniline):

A portion of the nitrobenzene from above (3.0 g) was dissolved in 40 ml of acetone and treated with titanium (III) chloride (50 ml, 1.0 M in HCl). After stirring 3h at ambient temperature under nitrogen the reaction was cautiously quenched with NaOH (1 M aqueous solution), then with sodium bicarbonate (saturated aqueous solution). Extraction with three portions of ethyl acetate was performed, then the product was washed in the aqueous phase with three portions of 5% aqueous HCl. After making the aqueous washes basic with excess aqueous

NaOH (1 M), the product was washed into ethyl acetate. After drying, filtration and solvent removal, 1.6 g of 3-fluoro-4-thiomethyl-aniline was recovered as an oil. This material was used without further purification or characterization.

5 Step 3 ((4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methylthio-phenyl)-amine):

The aniline from above (0.51 g, 3.24 mmol) and 4-ethoxybenzaldehyde (0.50 g, 3.33 mmol) was dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (3 ml). Five drops of glacial acetic acid were added, followed by addition of sodium triacetoxymethylborohydride (1.2 g, 5.7 mmol). After stirring at ambient temperature over
10 a weekend, the solution was directly poured onto a pad of silica gel and eluted with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes. Solvent removal from the product containing fractions afforded the desired (4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methylthio-phenyl)-amine (1.0 g, contaminated with 4-ethoxybenzaldehyde as indicated by ¹H NMR) as an oil, which was carried on to the final product as detailed below.

15 Step 4 ((4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-amine):

(4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methylthio-phenyl)-amine from above (0.40 g) in 10 ml DMF was treated with methyl vinyl sulfone (0.35 g), followed by
20 sodium hydride (0.12 g, 60% dispersion in mineral oil). After 3h stirring at ambient temperature under nitrogen, the reaction was quenched with aqueous sodium bicarbonate and extracted with ethyl acetate (two extractions). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and solvent was removed. The residue was then diluted with 17 ml of methanol and 3
25 ml of water were added. Oxone (1.6 g) was then added to the cooled solution (0 °C) and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring overnight, the reaction was diluted with water and extracted two times with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and solvent was removed. Flash chromatography starting with 33% ethyl acetate in

hexanes, changing to 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes and finally 66% ethyl acetate in hexanes afforded, after solvent removal, 0.29 g of the final product as a solid.
mp 56 – 59 C. Calc. for $C_{19}H_{24}FNO_5S_2$ C 53.13 H 5.63 N 3.26. Found C 52.81 H 5.70 N 3.28.

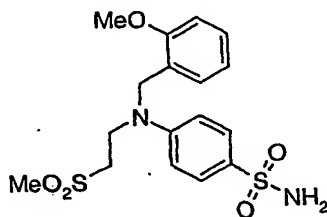
5 Following the procedure above, but replacing 4-ethoxybenzaldehyde with 4-fluorobenzaldehyde in Step 3 gave (4-fluoro-benzyl)-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-amine (1-73).

Following the procedure above, but replacing 3,4-difluoro-nitrobenzene with 2-bromo-5-nitroanisole in Step1 and 4-ethoxybenzaldehyde with 4-fluorobenzaldehyde in Step 3 gave (4-fluoro-benzyl)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methoxy-phenyl)-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-amine (1-74).

10

Example 14

15 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (2-9)



5e

Step 1

A mixture of 4-fluorophenylsulfonamide (1.4 g) and (2-thiomethyl)ethylamine (3 g) was heated at 120 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere for
20 4 h; the mixture was then heated at 160 °C for 2 h. The resulting dark mixture was cooled, passed through a pad of SiO_2 (hexane/EtOAc), to afford 0.34 g of 4-[(2-thiomethyl-ethyl)amino]-benzenesulfonamide as a white powder; 1H NMR
(DMSO) δ 2.1 (s, 3H), 2.65 (m, 2H), 3.3 (m, 2H), 6.5 (t, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 6.6 (m,
25 2H), 6.9 (s, 2H), 7.5 (m, 2H).

Step 2

A slurry of 4-[(2-thiomethyl-ethyl)amino]-benzenesulfonamide (0.33 g, 1.34 mmol) and 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride (0.22 ml, 0.25 g, 1.5 mmol) in (CH₂Cl)₂ was heated at reflux for 1 h. The mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by MPLC (85:15 to 70:30 CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc) to afford 0.51 g (100%) of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzoyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide as a colorless glass; ¹H NMR δ 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 4.1 (m, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 6.67 (m, 1H), 6.86 (t, 1H, J = 7.1), 7.2 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, 2H, J = 7.1).

Step 4

A solution of 1 M BH₃•THF/THF (6.8 ml, 6.8 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzoyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (0.51 g, 1.34 mmol) in THF (5 ml). After 18 h, the excess BH₃ was quenched by addition of 0.1 M HCl; followed by partitioning the mixture between CH₂Cl₂ and NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by MPLC (CH₂Cl₂ to 70:30 CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc) to afford 0.38 g (77%) of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide as a clear glass.

Step 5

A solution of Oxone® (1.6 g, 2.6 mmol) in H₂O (5 ml) was added to a 0 °C solution of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (0.38 g, 1.0 mmol) in MeOH (21 ml) resulting in an immediate precipitate. After 1 h, the mixture was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2X). The combined organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was triturated with hot CH₂Cl₂ to afford, after cooling, 0.38 g (92%) of 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide as a white solid; (m+H)⁺ 399.

Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 4-ethoxybenzoyl chloride, and replacing 2 equivalents of oxone in step 4 with 1 equivalent of oxone, was produced 4-{N, N-[2-(methylsulfinyl)ethyl](4-fluorobenzyl)amino}phenyl methyl sulfone (1-78), $(m+H)^+$ 395.

Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide was produced as a white solid; 1H NMR δ 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.77 (m, 2H), 4.14 (m, 2H), 4.8 (br s, 2H), 6.90 (dd, 2H, $J = 8.6, 8.6$), 7.21 (d, 2H, $J = 8.6$), 7.32 (dd, 2H, $J = 5.3, 8.9$), 7.81 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$) and 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (2-5), was produced as a white solid; 1H NMR δ 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.74 (m, 2H), 3.68 (m, 2H), 4.6 (br s, 2H), 6.1 (br s, 2H), 6.67 (d, 2H, $J = 9.1$), 7.01 (dd, 2H, $J = 8.7, 8.7$), 7.15 (dd, 2H, $J = 5.3, 8.8$), 7.70 (d, 2H, $J = 9.1$).

Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 4-ethoxybenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-ethoxy-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide, (2-6), was produced as a white solid; $(m+H)^+$ 413.

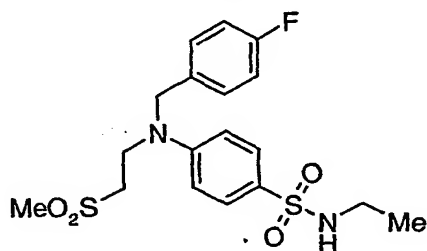
Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 2-fluorobenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide, (2-7), was produced as a white solid; $(m+H)^+$ 387.

Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 2,6-difluorobenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2,6-difluoro-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide, (2-8), was produced as a white solid; $(m+H)^+$ 405.

Following the procedure of Example 14, but replacing 2-methoxybenzoyl chloride in Step 2 with 2-chlorobenzoyl chloride, 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-chloro-benzyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide, (2-10), was produced as a white solid; $(m+H)^+$ 403.

Example 15

4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzyl)amino]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide
(2-12)

Step 1

A solution of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-benzenesulfonamide (0.32 g, 0.88 mmol), acetyl chloride (0.069 ml, 76 mg, 0.97 mmol), and Et₃N (0.13 ml, 97 mg, 0.96 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9 ml) was heated at reflux for 2 h. After cooling, the mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by MPLC (CH₂Cl₂ to 60:40 CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc) to afford 0.29 g (81%) of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-N-acetyl-benzenesulfonamide as a colorless glass; ¹H NMR δ 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.77 (m, 2H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 6.90 (dd, 2H, J = 7.5, 7.5), 7.24 (d, 2H, J = 9.0), 7.32 (dd, 2H, J = 3.0, 9.0), 7.92 (d, 2H, J = 9.0), 9.1 (br s, 1H).

Step 2

A solution of 1 M BH₃•THF/THF (7.0 ml, 7.0 mmol) was added to a stirring solution of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-N-acetyl-benzenesulfonamide (0.29 g, 0.69 mmol) in THF (8 ml). After 18 h, the excess BH₃ was quenched by addition of 0.1 M HCl; followed by partitioning the mixture between CH₂Cl₂ and NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by MPLC (CH₂Cl₂ to 90:10 CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc) to afford 0.16 g (59%) of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-

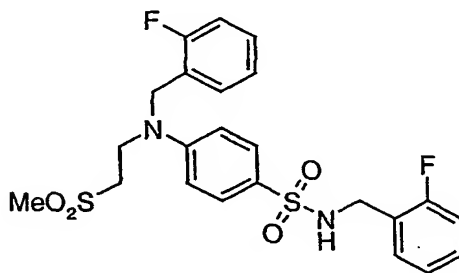
benzyl)-amino]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide as a colorless glass; ^1H NMR δ 1.09 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.96 (m, 2H), 3.67 (m, 2H), 4.37 (t, 1H, $J = 6.0$), 4.62 (s, 2H), 6.69 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$), 7.04 (dd, 2H, $J = 4.5, 7.5$), 7.15 (dd, 2H, $J = 6.0, 9.0$), 7.66 (d, 2H, $J = 7.5$).

Step 3

A solution of Oxone® (0.54 g, 0.88 mmol) in H_2O (2 ml) was added to a 0°C solution of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide (0.13 g, 0.34 mmol) in MeOH (8 ml) resulting in an immediate precipitate. After 1 h, the mixture was partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 and H_2O . The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2X). The combined organic layer was dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo* to afford 0.14 g (100%) of 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide as a pale glass; $(\text{m}+\text{H})^+$ 415.

Example 16

4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-fluoro-benzyl)amino]-(N-2-fluorobenzyl)-benzenesulfonamide (2-11)



Step 1

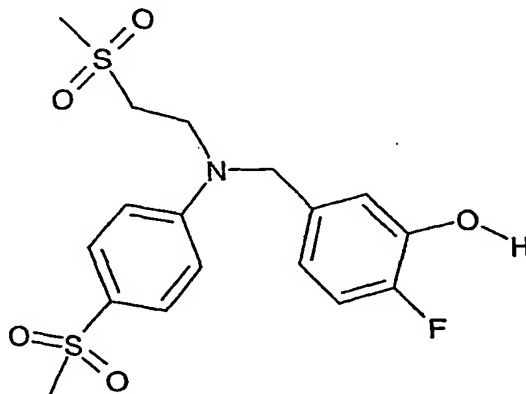
A solution of 4-[(2-thiomethyl-ethyl)amino]-benzenesulfonamide (0.30 g, 1.2 mmol), 2-fluorobenzoyl chloride (0.29 ml, 0.39 g, 2.4 mmol), and Et_3N (0.34 ml, 0.25 g, 2.4 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (12 ml) was heated at reflux for 2 h. After cooling, the mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by

MPLC (CH_2Cl_2 to 75:25 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOAc}$) to afford 0.20 g (33%) of 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-(N-2-fluorobenzoyl)-benzenesulfonamide 3g as a colorless glass; ^1H NMR δ 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.74 (m, 2H), 4.13 (m, 2H), 6.80 (t, 1H, $J = 9.0$), 7.06 (t, 1H, $J = 7.5$), 7.17 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.5, 12.0$), 7.2-7.3 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, 1H, $J = 7.5$), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.97 (t, 1H, $J = 7.5$), 8.02 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$), 9.02 (d, 1H, $J = 15.0$).

Following the procedure of Example 15, Step 2, but replacing 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(4-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-N-acetyl-benzenesulfonamide with 4-[(2-methylthio-ethyl)-(2-fluoro-benzoyl)-amino]-(N-2-fluorobenzoyl)-benzenesulfonamide, was produced 4-[(2-methylsulfonyl-ethyl)-(2-fluoro-benzyl)-amino]-N-(2-fluoro-benzyl)-benzenesulfonamide as a pale glass; $(\text{m}+\text{H})^+$ 495.

Example 17

2-Fluoro-5-[[[(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(3-methanesulfonyl-propyl)-amino]-methyl]-phenol (1-79)

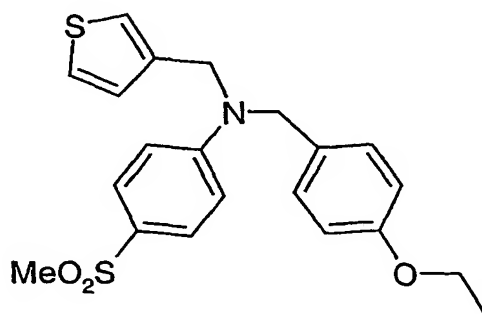


To 694 mg (1.67 mmol) of (4-fluoro-3-methoxy-benzyl)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(3-methanesulfonyl-propyl)-amine, prepared following the method of Example 5 but replacing 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde with 4-fluoro-3-methoxybenzaldehyde, dissolved in 3 ml of 2,4,6-collidine was added 402 mg (3.01 mmol) lithium iodide. The mixture was heated to 150 degrees for 3 hrs, cooled to room temperature, and partitioned between ethyl acetate and 1 N HCl. Upon drying over magnesium sulfate and concentration, column chromatography, eluting with

acetone/dichloromethane, provided 169 mg of 2-fluoro-5-[[[4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-(3-methanesulfonyl-propyl)-amino]-methyl]-phenol; $(m+H)^+ = 401$.

Example 18

Synthesis of (4-ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-amine (1-76)



Step 1

To 5.0 ml (40.19 mmol) of 4-(methylthio)aniline dissolved in 25 ml dichloromethane was added 5.59 ml (40.19 mmol) 4-ethoxybenzaldehyde followed by 12.78 g (60.28 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride. The mixture was stirred at overnight at room temperature, partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated. Crystallization from dichloromethane/hexane, provided 7.87 g of (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-amine, pure by 1H NMR.

Step 2

To 200 mg (0.731 mmol) of (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-amine dissolved in 5 ml dichloromethane was added 68 μ l (0.731 mmol) 3-thiophenecarboxaldehyde followed by 232 mg (1.09 mmol) sodium triacetoxyborohydride. The mixture was stirred at overnight at room temperature, partitioned between EtOAc and brine, dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated. Column chromatography, eluting with ethyl acetate/hexane, provided 241 mg product (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-amine, pure by 1H NMR.

Step 3

To 241 mg (0.652 mmol) of (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-amine dissolved in 6 ml methanol was added 800 mg (1.3 mmol) OXONETM followed by 600 µl water. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, then partitioned between EtOAc and water, adding 1 N NaOH until the aqueous phase was neutral. The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-amine was obtained in 92% yield (240 mg) and appeared pure by ¹H NMR.

Following the procedure of Example 18, but replacing 2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde in step 2 with 4-imidazolecarboxaldehyde gave (4-Ethoxy-benzyl)-(1*H*-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-amine. (m+H)⁺ = 385. (1-77)

Example 19

The following are representative pharmaceutical formulations containing a compound of formula (I).

Tablet formulation

The following ingredients are mixed intimately and pressed into single scored tablets.

Ingredient	Quantity per tablet, mg
compound of this invention	400
cornstarch	50
croscarmellose sodium	25
lactose	120
magnesium stearate	5

Capsule formulation

The following ingredients are mixed intimately and loaded into a hard-shell gelatin capsule.

Ingredient	Quantity per capsule, mg
compound of this invention	200
lactose, spray-dried	148
magnesium stearate	2

Suspension formulation

The following ingredients are mixed to form a suspension for oral administration.

	Ingredient	Amount
5	compound of this invention	1.0 g
	fumaric acid	0.5 g
	sodium chloride	2.0 g
	methyl paraben	0.15 g
	propyl paraben	0.05 g
10	granulated sugar	25.5 g
	sorbitol (70% solution)	12.85 g
	Veegum K (Vanderbilt Co.)	1.0 g
	flavoring	0.035 ml
	colorings	0.5 mg
15	distilled water	q.s. to 100 ml

Injectable formulation

The following ingredients are mixed to form an injectable formulation.

	Ingredient	Amount
20	compound of this invention	0.4 mg
	sodium acetate buffer solution, 0.4 M	2.0 ml
	HCl (1N) or NaOH (1N)	q.s. to suitable pH
	water (distilled, sterile)	q.s. to 20 ml

25

Example 20Inhibition of COX I and COX II *in vitro*

The COX I and COX II inhibitory activity of compounds of this invention *in vitro* was determined using partially purified COX I and COX II enzymes, prepared as described in J. Barnett *et. al.*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **1209**, 130-139 (1994).

COX I and COX II samples were diluted with Tris-HCl buffer (50mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.9) containing 2 mM EDTA and 10% glycerol and reconstituted by incubating first with 2 mM phenol for 5 minutes and then with 1 micromolar hematin for an additional 5 minutes. 125 μ l of the reconstituted COX I or COX II enzyme were preincubated for 10 minutes at room temperature in a shaking water bath with the compounds of the invention dissolved in 2-15 μ l of DMSO or the carrier vehicles (control samples). The enzyme reaction was initiated by adding 25 μ l of 1-[¹⁴C]arachidonic acid (80,000-100,000 cpm/tube; 20 micromolar final concentration) and the reaction was allowed to continue for an additional 45 seconds. The reaction was terminated by adding 100 μ l of 2N HCl and 750 μ l water. An aliquot (950 μ l) of the reaction mixture was loaded onto a 1 ml C₁₈ Sep-Pak column (J.T. Baker, Phillipsburg, NJ) which had been previously washed with 2-3 ml methanol and equilibrated with 5-6 ml distilled water. Oxygenated products were quantitatively eluted with 3 ml of acetonitrile/water/acetic acid (50:50:0.1, v/v) and the radioactivity in the eluate determined in a scintillation counter.

Compounds of this invention were active in this assay.

The COX inhibitory activities (expressed as IC₅₀, the concentration causing 50% inhibition of the COX enzyme being assayed) of some compounds of the invention were:

CPD #	COX I IC ₅₀ , μM	COX II IC ₅₀ , μM	CPD #	COX I IC ₅₀ , μM	COX II IC ₅₀ , μM
1-19		<2.0	1-49	>40	<0.20
1-24	>40	<0.20	1-50	>40	<0.20
1-26	>40	<0.20	1-51	>40	<0.20
1-27		<0.20	1-53	>40	<0.20
1-37	>40	<0.20	1-60		<2.0
1-47	>20	<0.20	2-2		<5.0
1-48	>15	<0.20			

5

Example 21Anti-inflammatory activity

The anti-inflammatory activity of compounds of this invention may be determined by measuring the inhibition of carrageenan-induced paw edema in the rat, using a modification of the method described in Winter C. A. *et al.*, "Carrageenan-Induced Edema in Hind Paw of the Rat as an Assay for Anti-inflammatory Drugs" *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.* 111, 544-547, (1962). This assay has been used as a primary *in vivo* screen for anti-inflammatory activity of most NSAIDs, and is considered predictive of human efficacy. Briefly, test materials are administered orally to female rats in a volume of 1 ml prepared as solutions or suspensions in an aqueous vehicle containing 0.9% sodium chloride, 0.5% sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, 0.4% polysorbate 80, 0.9% benzyl alcohol and 97.3% distilled water. Control rats receive vehicle alone. After 1 h 0.05 ml of a 0.5% solution of Carrageenan (Type IV Lambda, Sigma Chemical Co.) in 0.9% saline is injected into the subplantar region of the right hind paw. Three hours later the rats are euthanized in a carbon dioxide atmosphere; hind paws are removed by severing at the tarso-crural

joint; and the left and right paws are weighed. The increase in weight of the right paw over the left paw is obtained for each animal and the mean increases are calculated for each group. The anti-inflammatory activity of the test materials is expressed as the percent inhibition of the increase in hind paw weight of the test group relative to the vehicle dosed control group.

Compounds of the invention are active in this assay.

Example 22

Inhibition of eicosanoid synthesis *in vivo*

The activity of compounds of this invention in inhibiting *in vivo* eicosanoid (prostaglandin E_2) synthesis in inflamed tissues may be determined by the carrageenan-induced inflammation (air-pouch model) in rats, using a modification of the method described in Futaki, M., *et al.*, "Selective Inhibition of NS-398 on prostanoid production in inflamed tissue in rat Carrageenan Air-pouch Inflammation" *J. Pharm. Pharmacol.* **45**, 753-755, (1993) and Masferrer, J. L., *et al.*; "Selective Inhibition of inducible cyclooxygenase 2 *in vivo* is Antiflammatory and Nonulcerogenic" *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.* **91**, 3228-3232, (1994). In this assay, an air-pouch is created in the rat and the PGE_2 levels in the air-pouch exudate are measured by enzyme immunoassay. Briefly, male rats are anesthetized using a 60:40 $CO_2:O_2$ mixture and subsequently injected subcutaneously with 20 ml of sterilized air, under aseptic conditions, in the proximal area of the dorsum. This injection of sterile air causes the creation of a subcutaneous "air pouch". The next day, a further 10 ml of sterile air is injected into the previously formed pouch using the same technique. The test materials are administered orally in a volume of 1 ml/100 g body weight as solutions or suspensions in an aqueous vehicle containing 0.9% sodium chloride, 0.5% sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, 0.4% polysorbate 80, 0.9% benzyl alcohol and 97.3% water. Control rats receive vehicle alone. After 30 minutes, 5 ml of a 0.5% solution of carrageenan (Sigma, Lambda Type IV) is injected into the air pouch. The rats are euthanized 3 or 6 h after the compound administration. 10 ml of a solution containing 10 μ g/l of indomethacin and 5.4 mM EDTA in 0.9% sterile saline is

injected into the air pouch; the air pouch is cut open; and the exudate is harvested. The total exudate volume is recorded, and the samples are analyzed for PGE₂ and 6-keto PGF₁ by ELISA (Titerzyme[®], PerSeptive Diagnostics, Boston, MA) and TxB₂ by radioimmuno assay (New England Nuclear Research, Boston MA, Catalog No. NEK-037), according to the manufacturer's directions.

The mean concentrations of PGE₂ are calculated for each group. The anti-inflammatory activity of test materials is expressed as the percent inhibition of PGE₂ formation in the test group relative to the control group.

Example 23

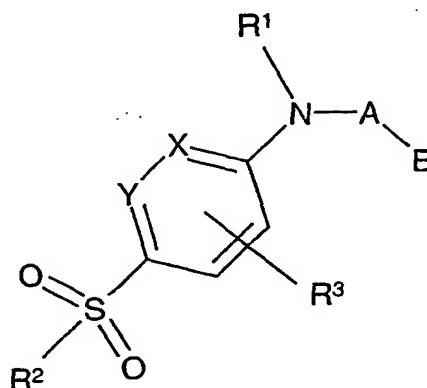
Analgesic Activity

The analgesic activity of the compounds of this invention may be determined by using a modification of the method described in Randall, L. O., and Selitto, J. J., "A Method for Measurement of Analgesic Activity on Inflamed Tissue", *Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn.*, CXI, 4, 409, (1957) and Gans, *et. al.*, "Anti-Inflammatory and Safety Profile of DuP 697, a Novel Orally Effective Prostaglandin Synthesis Inhibitor", *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, 254, No. 1, 180, (1990). In this assay, the male Sprague Dawley rats are injected with 0.1 ml of 20% brewer's yeast in deionized water (Sigma, St. Louis) in the subplantar region of the left hind foot. After 2 h, the test materials are administered orally in a volume of 1 ml/100 g body weight as solutions or suspensions in an aqueous vehicle containing 0.9% sodium chloride, 0.5% sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, 0.4% polysorbate 80, 0.9% benzyl alcohol and 97.3% water. Control rats receive vehicle alone. After 1 h, the hindpaw is placed on the platform of a Basile Analgesy-Meter (Ugo Biological Research Apparatus, Italy, Model # 7200) and mechanical force is applied to the dorsum of the rat's hindpaw. The analgesic activity of compounds of this invention may also be determined by using an adjuvant-induced arthritis pain model in the rat, where pain is assessed by the animal's vocal response to the squeezing or flexing of an inflamed ankle joint, as described in Winter C.A. and Nuss, G.W., "Treatment of Adjuvant Arthritis in rats with Anti-inflammatory

Drugs", *Arthritis Rheum.*, **9**, 394-403, (1966) and Winter, C.A., Kling P.J., Tocco, D.J., and Tanabe, K., "Analgesic activity of Diflunisal [MK-647; 5-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)salicylic acid] in Rats with Hyperalgesia Induced by Freund's Adjuvant", *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, **211**, 678-685, (1979).

Claims

1. A compound selected from the group of compounds represented by formula (I):



Formula I

wherein:

A is $-(CR_2)_n-$ where n is 1, 2, or 3 and R is independently hydrogen or alkyl;

B is aryl or heteroaryl;

X and Y are, independently, CH or nitrogen;

R¹ is alkyl, alkenyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylthio substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl substituted aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl or alkylcarbonylalkyl;

R² is alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or NR¹³R¹⁴ wherein:

R¹³ is hydrogen or alkyl;

R¹⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or aminoalkyl;

R³ is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy; and prodrugs, individual isomers, mixtures of isomers, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl, or heteroalkyl;

R^2 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein:

R^{13} is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

3. The compound of Claim 1 or 2, wherein:

R^3 is hydrogen, and

at least one of X and Y is CH.

4. The compound of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein B is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroalkyl.

5. The compound of any one of Claims 1-4 wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclalkyl or heteroalkyl.

6. The compound of Claim 5 wherein R^1 is heteroalkyl.

7. The compound of Claim 6 wherein R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl.

8. The compound of any one of Claims 1-7 wherein R^2 is alkyl or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen.

9. The compound of any one of Claims 1-8 wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.

10. The compound of Claim 1 or 2 wherein:

R^1 is alkylsulfonylalkyl; B is aryl; and X and Y are CH.

11. The compound of Claim 1, 2 or 10, wherein R^2 is alkyl or NH_2 .

12. The compound of Claim 1, 2, 10 or 11, wherein A is $-(CH_2)-$.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of Claims 1-12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. Use of compounds according to any one of Claims 1-12 for the manufacture of a medicament comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1-12 for treating a disease in a mammal treatable by administration of a prostaglandin G/H synthase inhibitor.

15. The use of Claim 14, wherein the disease is an inflammatory disease, Alzheimer's disease or an autoimmune disease.

16. The use of Claim 15, wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from myositis, synovitis, arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis), gout, ankylosing spondylitis and bursitis.

17. The use of Claim 15, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from systemic lupus erythematosus and type I diabetes.

18. The invention as hereinbefore described.

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(54) Title: P-(SULFONYL)-ARYL AND HETEROARYLS AMINES

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to anti-inflammatory and analgesic compounds, especially to certain <i>p</i>-(sulfonyl)phenyl amino derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, methods for their use, and methods for preparing these compounds. The claimed compounds have prostaglandin G/H synthase inhibitor activity and are suitable for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, such as myositis, synovitis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis and bursitis, for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease or of an autoimmune disease such as systemic lupus erythematosus and type I diabetes.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 01/04589

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07C317/36 C07D277/28 C07D333/20 C07D207/14 C07D213/38
C07D241/16 C07D213/74 A61K31/135 A61K31/425 A61K31/38
A61K31/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07C C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

CHEM ABS Data, BEILSTEIN Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 01425 A (SCHERING CORP) 15 January 1998 (1998-01-15) page 11, line 4 - page 12, line 27; page 19, compound 2T,; page 21, compound 2A0 ---	1-5,9, 12-15
X	C.J. DINSMORE ET AL: BIOORG. MED. CHEM. LETT., vol. 9, no. 23, 1999, pages 3301-3306, XP004183728 page 3304, table 4, compound 8e ---	1-5,9, 12,13
X	R.D. DESAI ET AL: INDIAN J. PHARM., no. 13, 1951, pages 211-213, XP000926589 page 213, column 1, line 16 ---	1-4,8,9, 11,12
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 November 2001

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Van Amsterdam, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. l. Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	J.H. BILLMAN ET AL: J. ORG. CHEM., vol. 27, 1962, pages 2640-2643, XP001015561 page 2642, column 2, compound V	1-5, 9, 12
X	US 3 615 606 A (W. SCHULTE ET AL) 26 October 1971 (1971-10-26) column 7, lines 60-75	1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12
X	A.R. KATRITZKY ET AL: SYNTH. COMMUN., vol. 23, no. 3, 1993, pages 405-417, XP000926588 page 407, scheme 1, compound 5	1, 2, 4, 5
P, X	WO 01 17982 A (GLAXO GROUP LTD ET AL) 15 March 2001 (2001-03-15) page 368, compound 631	1, 2, 4, 9, 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9801425	A	15-01-1998	AU 728592 B2	11-01-2001
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WO 0117982	A	15-03-2001	AU 7774300 A	10-04-2001
			WO 0117982 A1	15-03-2001
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- with amended claims and statement

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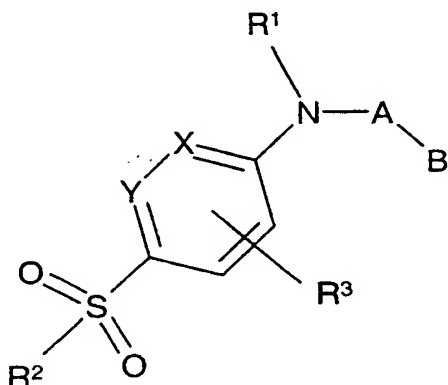
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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 27 December 2001 (27.12.01);
original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

1. A compound selected from the group of compounds represented by formula (I):



Formula I

wherein:

A is $-(CR_2)_n$ - where n is 1, 2, or 3 and R is independently hydrogen or alkyl;

B is aryl or heteroaryl;

X and Y are, independently, CH or nitrogen;

R¹ is alkyl, alkenyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylthio substituted aryl, alkylsulfonyl substituted aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl or alkylcarbonylalkyl;

R² is alkyl, alkenyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or NR¹³R¹⁴ wherein:

R¹³ is hydrogen or alkyl;

R¹⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or aminoalkyl;

R³ is hydrogen, alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy; and prodrugs, individual isomers, mixtures of isomers, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded;

4-{N,N-(benzyl)(1-cyclohexyl-4-pyridyl)amino}phenyl 4-methoxyphenyl sulfone;

4-{N,N-(3-nitrobenzyl)(4-cyclohexyl-4-pyridyl)amino}phenyl 4-methoxyphenyl sulfone;

4-[N,N-[[1-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-5-methyl-imidazol-2-yl]-methyl](cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-2-methyl-phenyl phenyl sulfone;

4-dibenzylamino-benzensulfonamide;

4-[(benzyl)(ethyl)amino]-N-acetyl-benzensulfonamide;

4-[(butyl)(3-phenylpropyl)amino]-3-nitro-N,N-butyl-

(phenylpropyl)benzensulfonamide and

4-dibenzylamino-3-methyl-N,N-dimethyl-benzensulfonamide.

2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, or heteroalkyl;

R^2 is alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or $NR^{13}R^{14}$ wherein:

R^{13} is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, acyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

3. The compound of Claim 1 or 2, wherein:

R^3 is hydrogen, and

at least one of X and Y is CH.

4. The compound of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein B is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroalkyl.

5. The compound of any one of Claims 1-4 wherein R^1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl or heteroalkyl.

Statement under PCT Article 19(1)

Compound 2T, compound 2AO disclosed in WO 98 01425 A (SCHERING CORP); compound 8e disclosed in C.J. DINSMORE ET AL: BIOLOG. MED. CHEM.; N⁴-dibenzylsulphanilamide disclosed in R.D. DESAI ET AL: INDIAN J. PHARM.; compound V disclosed in J.H. BILLMAN ET AL: J. ORG. CHEM.; compound 5 disclosed in A.R. KATRITZKY ET AL: SYNTH. COMMUN.; and compound 631 disclosed in WO 01 17982 A (GLAXO GROUP LTD ET AL) have been disclaimed from original claim 1.